

Black-headed Grosbeak
30 Oct 1968
Manti Woods, Fremont Co., IA
Mrs. W. C. DeLong
DeLong 1968

Record Number: 81-EJ
Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

DeLong, Mrs. W.C. 1969. Black-headed Grosbeak in western Iowa.
IBL 39:43.

VOTE (1981): 7-III

III, adequate detail, experienced observer.

III, sight observation, experienced observer, description
perhaps OK.

III, Fairly well-described bird, a male, seen well by an
experienced observer.

Black-headed Grosbeak

17. (597). *Zamelodia melanocephala* (Swainson). Black-headed Grosbeak.

Anderson 1907
p 389

There are no Iowa records, but in Nebraska it is reported "during migration over the state, rarely to Neligh, York, Omaha" (Rev. Bds. Neb., 1904, p. 91).

DeLong, Mrs. W. C. 1969. Black-headed Grosbeak in western Iowa. IBL 39:43.

The Black-headed Grosbeak in Western Iowa-- In Iowa Bird Life for December, 1961, page 74, there is an article, "A Challenge to Iowa Bird Spotters" by the late William Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa. In this article he gave a list of the rare birds one might be able to observe in Iowa. His comment about the Black-headed Grosbeak reads:

"The Black-headed Grosbeak should not be forgotten when looking for rare birds in Iowa, for it has been found nesting in northeast (sic) Missouri and also in north-central Kansas. The writer has found this grosbeak nesting in Yankton, South Dakota, which is not far from the Iowa border."

It was on October 30, 1968, that I was walking in the Manti Woods, five miles southwest of Shenandoah, Iowa. A bird that I thought at first was a Fox Sparrow flew into a gooseberry bush, but when my binoculars brought the bird into view, I was astounded at what I saw. It had a grosbeak bill, a black head with cinnamon around its neck, on its breast, sides and flanks. There was much white in its wings and patches of white in the tail. This bird was no Fox Sparrow!

"What are you doing here in Iowa, you Black-headed Grosbeak!" I exclaimed. For a long time he perched in this bush for me to observe. It brought back memories of the many Black-headed Grosbeaks I banded in Rocky Mountain National Park Colorado. As I stood there studying his plumage, I thought of our grosbeak, Scenic Bird as we called him, how he would come every morning and take up his favorite perch in a ponderosa pine tree by my mountain cabin in the park and pour forth his succession of rich and clear whistling notes with trills and then close with a few rought notes. I recalled the nest of Scenic Bird I found in a mountain birch that bordered the stram north of my cabin. Banded in 1958 he came back every summer to my feeding station until the summer of 1965. I was alone that October afternoon in the Manti Woods. My only regret was that my bird companion, Mrs. Ruth Zollars, was not there to share the experience with me.-- MRS. W. C. DeLONG, 1206 Johnson Drive, Shenandoah.

Hedymeles melanocephalus papago Oberholser.

Rocky Mountain Grosbeak

DuMont 1937
p 157

Anderson (1907) included this bird in his hypothetical list and stated that it had been reported in Nebraska during migration east rarely to Omaha. One was reported from there May 17, 1930 (Letter of Information of the Nebr. Orni. Union). It appears to be extending its range eastward in South Dakota, Youngworth having found it breeding in Yankton County, in that state, July 6, 1931.