

Lazuli Bunting
14 May 1978
Waterloo, Black Hawk Co., IA
*Tom Stone Jr.
IBL 48:77

Record Number: 81-EW
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Tom Stone Jr.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Tom Kent to Records Committee, 13 Sep 1993

VOTE (1981): 5-III, I-IV, 1-V

V, written 2 weeks later, creative observer, by himself.

IV, single observer record. Documented on official form by 'official' observer.

III, well described sighting.

REVOTE (1993): 4 A-D, 3 NA

A-D, Adequate description, and date is reasonable. See note below = I have accepted these Tom Stone Jr. records based on the descriptions he wrote. However, I am aware that they all could have been incorrect, and could be persuaded to change my votes.

A-D, I originally voted NA on this record, but could not give reasons. I have changed my vote to A-D in hopes of keeping this record alive so that the committee can discuss this and other Tom Stone Jr. records. Based upon the written description, a non-prejudiced vote would almost have to be A-D. The bird is well described, the date seems reasonable, and there are other Iowa records. Unfortunately, I don't have the Illinois book to check on vagrancy to that state or to other locations east of Iowa. I think this all boils down to the observer's veracity.

A-D, Yes, we should consider the rarity of this bird, but the detail are still there to support this ID. Also the bird is easy to identify and was seen at close range for 5 minutes.

NA, Delay in writing description and unlikely location make me more conservative on this record, although this park is certainly known for the unusual.

81-EW

13 September 1993

To: IOU Records Committee
From: Tom Kent
Re: Request for reconsideration of record

Record: 81-EW Lazuli Bunting

Reason for request: Include with other Tom Stone Jr records.

Comment: Two reviewers mistrusted the observer. The description is convincing but written at the end of the reporting period, two weeks after the sighting. In contrast to the Prairie Warbler (81-DV), there is no precedent for this species in eastern Iowa. To make a mistake on accepting this record would be of greater consequence than for the Prairie Warbler. Should this be a consideration?

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

- Species Indigo Bunting 2. Number: ①
- Location George Wyth State Park.
- Date: May 14 5. Time Bird seen: 6:30 AM to 6:35 AM
- Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): Male - size - about 5 inches long. shape of sparrow. all blue head with blue back, wings and tail bluish black. wings have two pure white wing bars very clearly seen. Breast had chestnut-orange patch across breast and on sides. Had black eyes and ^{conical} beak and feet ^{were} black.
- Description of voice, if heard: not heard.
- Description of behavior: Eating weed seeds ~~near~~ near stream and was being chased by territorial Indigo Bunting
- Habitat - general: Marginal Woodland with small stream bordered with ~~with~~ Redgerons, ^{scrub growth}, and weed patches.
- Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: ~~Eastern Bluebird~~
- Distance (how measured)? 15 feet, judged by sight. 12. Optical equipment: 7x50 Binoculars
- Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Clear skies with sun behind my back while I observed bird.
- Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have had many experiences with this bird in Wyoming in the same habitat.
- Other observers: I am sorry to say there were no other observers with me. I did encourage Audubon members to look for bird.
- Did the others agree with your identification?
- Other observers who independently identified this bird: ~~none~~
- Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Birds of North America by Robbins + Singer
- How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? ~~Two weeks.~~ Two weeks.

Signature Tom Stone Jr. Address: 1632 Woodmayer, Dr.
Date: 1/5/31/781 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa

81-EW

Lazuli Bunting

Halmi, N. S. 1978. Field reports. Iowa Bird Life 48:69-77

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Finches, Sparrows. A Lazuli Bunting was seen on May 14 in Waterloo (TSt Jr). This rare finding was supported by the necessary detailed written documentation. It was a surprise to see the * Dickcissel on the Blue List, but this spring they seem indeed less abundant than in the past (NHa,GBI,JG). The late date for Evening //