

Western Bluebird

< 1875

western Iowa, IA

Mr. Atkinson

Baird 1875, Anderson 1907, DuMont 1933

Record Number: 81-IG
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway. 1874. Birds of North America. Land
Birds, Vol 3, p 501.

Coues 1874

Coues 1878

Cooke 1888

Keyes and Williams 1889

Anderson 1907

DuMont 1933

VOTE (1981): 5-V, 1-VI, 1-?

V, no data.

VI, insufficient data.

V, no details.

Baird, Brewer and Ridgway. 1874. Birds of North America. Land Birds, Vol 3
p 501

"*Sialia mexicana* (I, 65). This species has been obtained in Western Iowa by Mr. Atkinson."

Coues, E. 1874. Birds of the Northwest. Washington, Gov't Printing Office
p 14

The Western Bluebird apparently inhabits only a limited area in the southwestern part of the Missouri region. Mr. Ridgway informs me of its occurrence in Iowa, but this must be highly exceptional. It has not been observed by any of Dr. Hayden's parties in regions where *S. arctica* is abundant, nor have I seen it myself anywhere along the Missouri. Mr. Allen and Mr. Aiken both report it from Eastern Colorado, where it is abundant, as it is also along the Pacific slopes to a higher latitude than it has been observed to reach in the interior. I found it resident and abundant in the mountainous portions of Arizona. Since, according to Mr. Ridgway, it is apparently absent from the Great Basin, it would seem to have two divaricating lines of migration, one carrying it far along the Pacific slopes, and the other taking it not so far along the main chain of the Rocky Mountains. In both cases it chooses wooded as well as mountainous regions. In its habits it is the counterpart of its familiar Eastern relative.

Coues, E. 1878. Birds of the Colorado Valley. Washington, US Geological Survey Misc Publications. p 80

HAB.—United States and Mexico, from the Eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. North to Vancouver. East occasionally to Iowa.

Cooke, W. W. 1888. Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley 1884-5. Washington. US Dept Agriculture Bull 2. p 294

767. *Sialia mexicana* Swains. [21.] *Western Bluebird*.

A straggler from the Rocky Mountain region. In Concho County, Tex., it is a rare winter visitor (Lloyd). At Boerne, Tex., Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown shot two specimens, each from a small flock, January 28 and March 1, 1883 (The Auk, Vol. I, 1884, p. 121). Stragglers have been recorded from Minnesota and Iowa.

Keyes, C. R. and H. S. Williams 1889
p 161

[B 159, R 23, C 28, U 767.]

Sialia mexicana Swains. *Western Bluebird*. Occasionally taken in western Iowa. Also recorded as having been taken in the State by Mr. Atkinson.

Western Bluebird

Anderson 1907
p 383

353. (767a). *Sialia mexicana bairdi* Ridgway. Chestnut-backed Bluebird.

This is a bird of the West and only occurs very rarely as a straggler in Iowa. It has been reported from Iowa as the Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), by various authorities. Baird Brewer and Ridgway state that the species has been observed in western Iowa by Mr. Atkinson (Birds of N. A., Land Birds, iii, 1875, p. 501). Dr. Elliott Coues states: "The Western Bluebird apparently inhabits only a limited area in the southwestern part of the Missouri region. Mr. Ridgway informs me of its occurrence in Iowa, but this must be highly exceptional" (Birds of the N. W., 1874, p. 14). "Stragglers have been recorded from Minnesota and Iowa" (Cooke, Bird Migr. in Miss. Val., p. 294). "Occasionally taken in western Iowa" (Keyes and Williams, p. 161). The Chestnut-backed Bluebird is included in the Nebraska list on Aughey's record, about seven miles from the mouth of the Niobrara River in August . . . "accidental east to Iowa and Minnesota . . . occurring regularly as a migrant along the eastern base of the Rockies" (Rev. Bds. Neb., p. 115).

George H. Berry writes: "In the spring of 1903, I saw one bird near Cedar Rapids with a flock of typical *sialis* that had a blue breast instead of the usual brownish chestnut. Had a good long look at it."

DuMont 1933
p 160

Sialia mexicana bairdi Ridgway. Chestnut-backed Bluebird

It was included by Anderson (1907) on the basis of two sight records. There are no specimens.