

Groove-billed Ani

1948

Iowa Lake, Osceola Co., IA

J. W. Musgrove

Musgrove 1948

Record Number: 81-BE

Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Musgrove, J.W. 1948. The Groove-billed Ani and Mountain Bluebird in Iowa collection. IBL 18:70.

VOTE (1981): 3-I, 3-IV, I-IV?

III, only question is whether bird was from Iowa.

IV, No description but reliable observer. Should have taken photos. Location in Iowa based on hearsay.

IV, provenance undocumented.

IV?, We don't seem to have a specific category for insuf. doc. specimens. No date of collection, rather 'third hand' collection info.

IV, Record of specimen reported and seen by J. W. Musgrove. The specimen is apparently not currently available nor does the report in IBL by Musgrove give any details about the bird. Given Musgrove's expertise there can probably be no question as to the bird's being an Ani, but given the overall lack of both tangible and descriptive evidence, it is difficult to accept be certain whether it is a groove-bill or a smooth-bill.

I, Musgrove does not describe the bill -- some slight chance that bird could have been Sm-billed -- see article in Birding. However, reputable observer.

Groove-billed Ani

81-8E

Musgrove, J. W. 1948. The Groove-billed Ani and Mountain Bluebird in Iowa collection. IBL 18:70.

The Groove-billed Ani and Mountain Bluebird, Specimens in Iowa Collection.—Recently I was called upon to identify an odd appearing bird that was taken a few years ago near Iowa Lake, Osceola County, Iowa. The identity of the bird was not known and it was mounted by Floyd Arens, who displayed it with his collection of birds in his hardware store at Lake Park, Iowa. I found the bird to be a specimen of the Groove-billed Ani. Also in his collection was a Mountain Bluebird which, according to Mr. Arens, was taken locally a few years ago when it was recovered from a house cat.

The record of the Groove-billed Ani is so very unusual that I checked all possible angles in the case. The question of what this weak-flying, far-southern species was doing in our range is not easily explained, and there is always the possibility that it was an escaped or liberated captive bird transported north and living for a time by its own resources in a natural state, though there is at least one other record of this species taken farther north than our state (one taken near Red Wing, Minnesota, mentioned in Roberts, "Birds of Minnesota"). I questioned Mr. Arens carefully about the Ani and found that a farm boy shot it near Iowa Lake thinking it was some kind of blackbird. He brought the specimen to Lake Park for identification. No one could identify it, but Mr. Arens mounted it and added it to his collection. There seemed to be no discrepancy in any part of the story, and Mr. Arens was as anxious as anyone else to learn the name of the strange visitor to northern Iowa.—JACK W. MUSGROVE, Museum Director, Dept. of History & Archives, Des Moines, Iowa.