

Groove-billed Ani

22 Oct 1966

Cedar Rapids, Linn Co., IA

R and J Vane, L. Serbousek, M. Willis

Brown 1971, Vane note 1981

Record Number: 81-NG

Classification: A-D

NOTES

Bob Vane, 23 Oct 1966

LETTER

Bob Vane to Tom Kent, 27 Jan 1982

REFERENCES

Brown 1971

Dinsmore et al. 1984

Records Committee: IBL 64:70

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Tom Kent to Records Committee, 13 Sep 1993

VOTE (1982): 4-III, 3-IV for Groove-billed, 7-III for Ani sp. Ani sp. III. Groove-billed IV. I

listened to the call of the two and they sound similar.

IV, *Crotophagas* sp seems sure; but am not sure that description of species is unequivocal, since ident. based only on voice. Characteristics of bill not obs. Unfamiliar with spec.

IV, Only two things are lacking to cause me to rate this record III: 1) more detailed doc. 2) doc by other observers. Have the others involved in the sighting been contacted in effort for further doc? Vote III for Ani species'.

REVOTE (at meeting, 8 May 1982): 4-III, 3-IV.

REVOTE (1993): 7 A-D

A-D, Call notes seem to be acceptable. Grooves on bill also seen.

A-D, Most likely species, and description of call. Observer remained convinced after several years, and had notes from time of sighting. (It is a little odd that the President of IOU did not also send in a documentation.)

A-D, Call note and probability alone clinch this one. Paragraph 3 of the letter refers to "... longitudinal line on upper mandible." I believe this was a typo, and the writer meant "lines". If he had intended this to be singular, he would've written "a longitudinal". I don't understand, however, why he didn't make more of this clearly diagnostic characteristic.

A-D, Vane mentions longitudinal lines and call notes sound distinctive.

81-NG

13 September 1993

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

Record: 81-NG Groove-billed Ani

Reason for request: Needs firm classification as Ani sp. or Groove-billed Ani.

Comment: The reviewers do not provide a very extensive analysis of this record. I would almost accept this record as Groove-billed on probability alone. I suggest that the description and voice are good enough, in spite of the reservations of the observers. I listened to tapes of the two anis and they sound quite different. The Smooth-billed has a whiney sound and the Groove-billed has notes. Vane describes the grooves on the bill, and I think he would have noted the peaked bill of a Smooth-billed Ani. Thus there are four good points for Groove-billed (probability, voice, grooves on bill, lack of peaked bill). That's as good as we had for the Jasper County bird except for the photograph (actually better because of the song).

Common Tern Sterna hirundo Linnaeus

Uncommon migrant

Most observations have been in April and May with occasional records in the summer months. The extreme dates have been 14 April (LS) and 23 September (JK). The majority of the records have been from the eastern half of the state.

Least Tern Sterna albifrons Pallas

Uncommon breeding bird.

It has been observed from 15 May, Sioux City (I.B.L., 25:40) to 8 September, Sioux City (WY). Nestings along the Missouri River near Sioux City are described by Youngworth (1961a). Nests were discovered at the De Soto National Wildlife Refuge: 1967 (DH, pers. comm.) 4 July, 1968 (ACB, WHB, RLN); and 21 June, 1969 (RDM, WHB).

Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia (Pallas)

Uncommon migrant

Spring migrants have been seen from 13 April (EC) to 19 June (PCP) while fall dates are from 11 September (FWK) to 1 November (RMH). There are also summer dates: 14 July, 1960 (Weller, 1961a); 17 July (JF, JCK); 24 July (PCP); and 10 August (JCK). Most recent observations have been in the central and eastern parts of the state with one from the Spirit Lake area (JWM).

Black Tern Chlidonias niger (Linnaeus)

Common breeding bird in northern Iowa

The earliest spring date is 29 April (WHB) and the latest in fall is 1 October (FAG).

Family ALCIDAE

Thick-billed Murre Uria lomvia (Linnaeus)

Accidental

Anderson (1907) mentioned two specimens obtained following a storm in December, 1896. There are no recent records.

Order COLUMBIFORMES
Family COLUMBIDAE

Rock Dove Columba livia Gmelin

Abundant permanent resident

The common pigeon is abundant around farms and city buildings; feral birds are found nesting about bridges and similar structures in the country, and some nesting colonies are situated on the faces of cliffs (Ennis, 1949).

Mourning Dove Zenaidura macroura (Linnaeus)

Abundant breeding bird, uncommon permanent resident

All Christmas Census summaries since the first in 1937 have included Mourning Doves in varying numbers at many widely scattered stations. Abundant food and mild weather often induce wintering.

Passenger Pigeon Ectopistes migratorius (Linnaeus)

Extinct

Anderson (1907) said it was "Now practically extinct in Iowa although there are a few records of straggling migrants during recent years," but DuMont (1933) called it "Extinct."

Order PSITTACIFORMES
Family PSITTACIDAE

Carolina Parakeet Conuropsis carolinensis (Linnaeus)

Extinct

According to Anderson (1907), "It has not been observed for at least 30 years, and has been practically exterminated throughout the United States."

Order CUCULIFORMES
Family CUCULIDAE

Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus (Linnaeus)

Common breeding bird

Dates of observations range from 4 May (WHB) to 21 October (PCP).

Black-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (Wilson)

Common breeding bird

It has been recorded from 4 May (PPL) to 12 October (Don Peterson).

Smooth-billed Ani Crotophaga ani Linnaeus

Accidental

One individual was observed in Cedar Rapids for three days and was watched for several hours on 22 October, 1966 by Dr. and Mrs. Robert F. Vane, Lillian Serbousek, and Myra Willis (RFV, pers. comm.). There is no Iowa specimen extant.

Groove-billed Ani Crotophaga sulcirostris Swainson

Accidental

One bird was shot in Osceola Co. a few years prior to 1948. The mounted specimen, in the collection of Floyd Arens in Lake Park, was examined by Jack Musgrove (Musgrove, 1948a).

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Ani

81-N6

Jan. 27, 1982

Dear Tom,

Enclosed is a copy of my 1966 notes.

There have been three other Minnesota sightings of the Groove-billed ani: On Oct. 20, 1958, Sept. 17, 1959, and Oct. 20, 1968. Some very interesting comments regarding ~~anis~~ are in The Loon Vol. 46 No 2 on Pages 92-93. Your Dad would have it (Summer 1974.)

Another pertinent note is in The Loon of Vol. 46 No. 1 Page 34.

The report of a Smooth-billed ani as printed in Woody Brown's annotated list has to be considered a mistake. I remember discussing it with him at one time and apparently the wrong idea was conveyed. I am sorry there was any mistake. But now we have a chance to correct it.

Best regards,

B.
Vane

Vane - Oct. 23, 1966

Groove-billed Ani

81-N6

On Saturday afternoon, Oct. 22, 1966, a telephone call to our home from a resident of Bever Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, brought the information that an ani had been seen in her back yard and would we please come over.

Soon, Jean and I were inside her home looking out, and sure enough, an ani was present † The bird had been around for most of the afternoon feeding on the ground along a row of shrubbery which bordered several vacant lots on a hillside. The vacant lots were grown up with weeds, and in the background were small trees up to six inches in diameter.

I immediately called Myra Willis, president of I.O.U., who arrived in a few minutes. We then went outdoors to see the bird more closely. We observed the bird in good sunlight from distances as close as 25 feet. The tremendous bill and long tail were remarkable as was its manner of flight. At times we could make out longitudinal line on the upper mandible.

Luckily, as it proved later, we heard the call of the bird a good many times and we all remarked on the two notes of which the call was made up.

A third person, Lillian Serbousek, was then telephoned, and when she arrived the bird was observed with a 15 power telescope from distances of 100 feet in good sunlight. I must say that at that particular time, since the bird was new to us, we were not absolutely sure whether it was a Smooth-billed or Groove-billed ani.

Upon returning home, however, we found in Bent, "The note of the Smooth-billed ani has been called a wailing or whining whistle - resembling the notes of the wood duck." Our bird's call note was not a whistle at all. And then we found in Pough's Eastern Land Birds under Smooth-billed ani, "The two anis are hard to tell apart except by note, the whining notes of this

(more)

Vane

81-NG

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species being in sharp contrast to the soft double note of the Groove-billed."

So for my part, that settled it that our bird was a Groove-billed ani. We note that there was a Minnesota specimen collected in October 1913, and Martin Grant refers to an Iowa record about 1940.