

Fall-1966

AFN-notes

IOWA

9 Dec.

Dear Pete:

The 52-col forms were printed by Al. B. some years ago and he gave me the sheets he had left after distributing most of them. There are more of some pages than others, and I can make only one set. I am enclosing a number of sheets with only the rulings, and the species can be typed in if you wish to go to the trouble.

There is little on the fall migration that I can add to what was submitted for Field Reports.

Two Western Grebes were at the Impounding Res. here on 13 Nov. and stayed until the 17th at least.

The sparrow migration might be said to have been good with more Harris' than usual. Fox Sparrows may have been down some but there were several observations of Le Conte's which is rare

Woody

DR. ROBERT F. VANE  
2220 GRANDE AVENUE S. E.  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Dec. 20, 1966

Dear Pete and Mary Lou;

It was good to have your card, and what a fine picture of a red-breasted nuthatch. We are sending our very best wishes to you both for a Bright New Year. Happy Holidays !

This robin card we picked up on the Scottish Bird Island study cruise which was magnificent. Aboard ship were 836 ornithologists from 37 nations.

Wonderful weather made the tremendous cliffs and colonies of sea birds a never-to-be forgotten sight. We were ashore for three days, one each in the Shetlands, the Orkneys and the Isle of Rhum.

After our meeting at Oxford, we flew to Copenhagen, quite by chance, with the Breckenridges. Later to Switzerland, Paris and then home.

Concerning the ani, we did in fact have an ani on Oct. 22nd and 23rd. Five of us observed it for an hour and a half on the 22nd in good sunlight from as close as 25 feet. Myra Willis, Lillian, Jean and I and the lady in whose yard it appeared were the observers. Lillian and Myra came to the conclusion that it was a smooth-billed ani. ~~After~~ After hearing the two-noted call, however, I felt that it could be a groove-billed ani. I did not know how deep or easily seen the grooves are. In Bent it says that they are very hard to see; so I have been waiting to report it until I got to the Chicago museum. There were no anis in the Iowa City museum.

I hope this note wont miss your deadline; but you can see that there has been an honest question as to which species it was. After a museum visit I hope to write it up in detail for IBL. We also have an interesting story of a Caroline wren in our yard Dec. 14th. It was good to see one again after several years.

Congratulations on the last issue of IBL. It was a dandy. Hope your bird count is a great one. We're planning to take ours on the 26th.

(over)

Bob

- here in cedar rapids

resolve the question and

DR. ROBERT E. VAUGHN  
200 EAST 10TH AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

P.S. Whatever you'd like to report about the ani  
is all right with me.

Dear Peter and Mary Lou:

It was good to have your card, and what a fine  
picture of a red-breasted nuthatch. We are sending  
our very best wishes to you both for a bright New Year.  
Happy Holidays!

This robin card we picked up on the 20th  
and found it very nice. We are sending it to you  
and hope you will like it.

Wonderful weather made the presentation all the  
more enjoyable. We had a very good time and  
we were happy for three days, one each in the  
lands, the Orinows and the late of them.

After our session at Oxford, we flew to  
Chicago and then to the University of  
Chicago.

Concerning the ani, we did in fact have an ani  
on Oct. 25th and 26th. Five of us observed it for  
an hour and a half on the 25th in good sunlight from  
an angle of 25 feet. My wife, Billie, Jean and  
I and the lady in whose yard it appeared were the ob-  
servers. Billie and I were close to the conclusion that  
it was a scarlet-tailed ani - a very nice one. I  
felt, however, that it could be a rufous-tailed  
ani. I did not know how deep or faintly seen the rufous  
are. In fact it says that they are very hard to see.  
so I have been waiting to report it until I got to the  
Chicago museum. There were no ani in the Iowa City  
museum.

I hope this note will give you a better  
idea of what I have been an expert question as to  
what species it was. After a museum visit I hope to  
write it up in detail for IBL. We also have an in-  
teresting story of a Carolina wren in our yard. I  
hope to see you again after several years.

Conversations on the last issue of IBL. It was  
a good one. Hope you did well in a great way. We're  
planning to take some on the 20th.

Bob