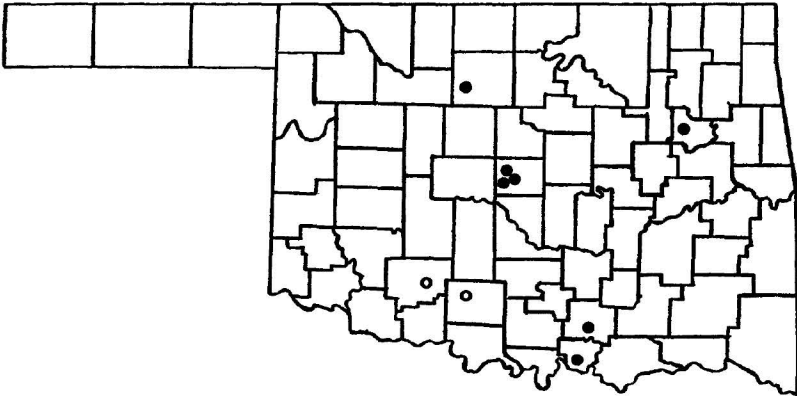


MORE GROOVE-BILLED ANI RECORDS FOR OKLAHOMA

BY JANET M. MCGEE

AT ABOUT 07:30 on 5 October 1970 (a windless day with occasional showers; air temperature 62° F. at noon) I saw a rather large black bird fly into a pyracantha bush in our backyard—a somewhat formally planted area bounded along one side by Wolf Creek, an intermittent stream, in the northwestern part of Lawton, Comanche County, southwestern Oklahoma. At first I dismissed the bird as a Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), but decided to check again, so watched it with a binocular as it preened and fed on the pyracantha berries. A look at the bill convinced me that the bird was an ani. It called several times—two low, soft notes, followed by a higher-pitched *pee-to*—as it moved about the bush. Presently it flew to a shed nearby, ran swiftly across the roof in the manner of a Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), and returned to the bush to preen. I called Jack D. Tyler, who watched the bird a while and fully agreed that it was an ani, but neither he nor I could be positive about the bill's grooving. The ani left the yard about 08:15. That evening, however, I heard it call several times and again saw it in the shrubbery.

Next morning (weather conditions the same) I heard the ani at 07:30. Again the bird flew to the pyracantha bush, where it fed on the berries. Here Dr. Tyler collected it. The specimen (JDT 109) proved to be a moderately fat immature female Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) in fine feather. The grooving on the bill was distinct. The wing measured 134 mm., the tail 186, the exposed



OKLAHOMA GROOVE-BILLED ANI RECORDS

Circles (Stephens County, Comanche County) indicate specimens taken; spots (in following counties: Marshall, Johnston, Oklahoma, Wagoner, Garfield) indicate sightings. Positioning of circles and spots is only approximate.

culmen 25. The specimen is now in the collection of vertebrates at Cameron College in Lawton.

What I have reported above is the first Groove-billed Ani record for Comanche County, the eighth record for Oklahoma, and the second specimen for the state. Louis J. Bussjaeger of Oklahoma City informs me of the following ninth record for the state. On 25 November 1970 Dr. Leonard R. Johnson (of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center), who lives near Lake Hefner at 5301 N. Hamilton Drive, Oklahoma City, saw two Groove-billed Anis with a flock of Common Grackles in his backyard. He confirmed his identification the following day when he took a partly eaten ani from a neighbor's cat.

There are now seven fall records for Oklahoma (two in 1952, one each in 1963, 1966, and 1968, and two in 1970), one record for spring (1962), and one record (1969) for midsummer (Newell, 1969, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 2: 1-2, 28-29). The accompanying map, made with the assistance of Robert Burke of the staff of the Stovall Museum of Science and History at the University of Oklahoma, shows the geographical distribution of the nine records.

1703 N. 43RD ST., LAWTON, OKLAHOMA 73501, 16 JUNE 1971.

GENERAL NOTES

Recovery in South America of Snowy Egret banded as nestling in Oklahoma.—On 19 November 1964 Alvaro Amaya Amaya, of the staff of the Instituto Nacional de Fomento Tabacalero of Colombia, shot or found dead near Bogota, Colombia (or received from someone who had shot it or found it dead, presumably in the vicinity of the city), a Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) that had been banded as an almost-fledged nestling by me at a rookery in Bethany, Oklahoma County, central Oklahoma, on 21 June 1964. The band number was 515-81926. The rookery, a large one, was composed of Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), Snowy Egrets, and Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), in about that order of abundance. The nests were in a fairly uniform stand of mature oaks.—Jack S. Roberts, 5816 N.W. 53rd St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73122. 30 July 1971.

White-winged Scoter in Johnston County, Oklahoma.—On 4 November 1970 Richard Orr, a 15-year-old duck hunter, shot a female White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) on Richardson Pond, an 8-acre, 20-foot-deep impoundment 5 miles north and 1.5 miles west of Tishomingo, Johnston County, south-central Oklahoma. About 200 ducks of various species were on the pond that day, but the scoter that Orr shot was the only scoter seen by anyone. That same day I shot a drake Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) and saw several Lesser Scaups (*A. affinis*).

The White-winged Scoter has not thus far been reported from southern Oklahoma. There are published records for Tulsa, Kay, and Payne counties