

**Groove-billed Ani in Oklahoma.**—On October 7, 1952, a Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) was shot by Lewis T. Pickett at Duncan Lake, about 11 miles northeast of Duncan, Stephens County, Oklahoma. On October 11, Mr. Pickett gave me the ani which, fortunately, he had not discarded. Dr. George M. Sutton, of the University of Oklahoma at Norman, made a fine study skin of the bird in spite of the fact that it was in an advanced state of deterioration. The skin is now in the University of Oklahoma museum.

The ani was a male with testes, though not large, readily perceptible even though the specimen was decomposing. Its stomach held six large grasshoppers of the genus *Melanopus* (five of one species, one of another). These were identified with the assistance of Dr. Cluff Hopla of the University of Oklahoma Department of Zoology. The bird weighed 90.6 grams. It was not emaciated but neither was it fat. The bird's plumage, on the whole, was in fine condition, but some of the larger wing and tail feathers were of a brownish cast and less glossy than the others—indication of a protracted late summer and fall molt.

The bird was sitting on a stem among the cattails surrounding the minnow ponds below Duncan Lake when Mr. Pickett first observed it. It was alone although there was a flock of Red-wings (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) in the cattails at the other end of the pond about 200 feet away.

The principal native vegetation around Duncan Lake is post oak-blackjack oak with associated mixed grasses—not particularly suggestive of the ani's native tropical and subtropical home. The summer and fall of 1952 were the driest and hottest for the lower Plains states since Weather Bureau records have been kept (1900). The unusually dry weather may have been the principal reason for the northward movement of the ani.

Mr. Raymond G. Keck, of Drummond, Garfield County, Oklahoma, wrote the Oklahoma Game and Fish Department concerning a Groove-billed Ani he saw in the trees in his yard on September 25, 26, and 27, 1952. He said the bird was tame and could be approached so closely that the grooves on the bill could be seen. He photographed the ani with his box camera. The picture, though not clear enough for reproduction here, is still good enough for positive identification of the ani.

There are several previous instances of the Groove-billed Ani occurring outside its normal range. Two instances are worthy of note here: W. S. Long (1940. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 43:444) mentions a specimen taken on November 1, 1904 in Lyon County, Kansas. Thomas S. Roberts (1932. "The birds of Minnesota. Vol. 1," pp. 594-595) lists a specimen taken in Goodhue County, Minnesota on October 12, 1913.

The Groove-billed Anis reported here are the first records of the species in Oklahoma.—GLENN E. JONES, *Oklahoma Game and Fish Department, Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 24, 1952.*

**Groove-billed Ani in Great Plains in 1952.**—This note reports and summarizes the records of the Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) in Kansas and other plains states in the remarkable northward movement of this species in the autumn of 1952.

This species was first reported outside its normal range on September 21, 1952, when a male was collected seven miles southeast of Stuttgart, Arkansas (Meanley and Neff, 1953. *Wilson Bull.*, 65:201). From September 25 to 27, an ani was present at Drummond, Garfield County, Oklahoma, and a male was collected at Duncan Lake, Stephens County, Oklahoma, on October 7 (Jones, 1953. *Wilson Bull.*, 65:202). One Groove-billed Ani was seen in the vicinity of Elgin, Antelope County, Nebraska, from

late September to October 4. Unfortunately, this bird was not obtained (Baumgarten and Rapp, 1953. *Nebraska Bird Rev.*, 21:2-3).

Finally, an immature male ani was shot six and three-fourths miles northeast of Blue Rapids, Marshall County, Kansas, on October 28. The specimen was brought by Elizabeth G. McLeod to Ted Andrews, of Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia. Andrews presented the specimen to the University of Kansas, where I prepared it as a study skin. The bird weighed 67.5 grams, had some fat, and had testes approximately 3 mm. long. It was in fresh plumage with sheaths still attached to the bases of the remiges and rectrices. The ani was immature, as judged from the incompletely ossified skull.

Speculation as to the cause of this movement of at least five (and probably many more) anis from their normal range seems futile. The invasion, if it may be called that, spanned at least five weeks in time and took at least one bird 1100 miles north of the species' nearest usual haunts in southern Texas.

Groove-billed Anis were previously reported in this portion of the Great Plains only from Kansas, where a specimen was taken in Lyon County on November 1, 1904.—HARRISON B. TORDOFF, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, March 30, 1953.*

**The voice of the Grand Potoo.**—The identification of birds of the night by means of their voices sounding in the darkness of virgin forests is one of the most difficult tasks of the ornithologist travelling in tropical countries. Besides the owls and the true nighthawks which lead in the nocturnal concert, there are in the New World the strange potoos (*Nyctibiidae*). Little has been published on their call notes. Everybody who listens for the first time to the cry of *Nyctibius griseus*, a common and widely distributed species, is in doubt whether these unusual sounds can be attributed to a bird at all. The song consists of a falling-off series of full, melodious notes that sound human. It has already been described several times (see, for instance, Sutton, 1950. *Bird-Banding*, 21:154-155) and it is generally assumed that the voices of other potoos are similar. However, this statement is misleading, at least regarding the Grand Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*).

The voice of this species sounds like a very harsh, deep, and long *kwak* or *kaw* or *gaw-ar*. The calls are uttered always separately. At pairing time the loud quacking is repeated at intervals of 10 or 20 seconds, but there is never a connection between the single notes, as in *Nyctibius griseus*. Sometimes the voice of the Grand Potoo is more like that of *Nyctibius griseus*, as many individuals of the latter species make harsh sounds, but *griseus* is always distinguishable by its uninterrupted falling-off pattern.

I find in the literature only two references which clearly deal with the voice of *Nyctibius grandis*. To Goeldi (1900. *Bol. Museu Paraense*, 3:211) the call of the Grand Potoo sounded "like the mewing of a big cat," while he reproduced the song of *Nyctibius griseus* as *pu-hu-hu*, if slowly spoken in a high voice. Haverschmidt (1948. *Auk*, 65:32) remarked that he heard strange notes of *Nyctibius grandis* sounding like *oorrrroo* or *oorrr*.

It may be added that both species, when fighting, utter cries in a croaking manner different from the song described above.

These observations on the Grand Potoo were made in the state of Mato Grosso, Xingú region, Central Brazil.—HELMUT SICK, *Fundação Brasil Central, Avenida Nilo Peçanha 23, Rio de Janeiro, D. F., Brazil, March 12, 1953.*