

What species? Black-billed magpie How many? 1

Location? Hitchcock Wildlife Area, Crescent, IA

Type of habitat? forest

When? date(s): 9-27-99 time: 5:00PM to 6:00PM

Who? your name and address: Sue Mattix 15204 Monroe Omaha NE 68137

others with you: Howard Mattix (same address)

others before or after you: NA

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Very large bird with a long tail.
Large patches of black & white
noticeable when in flight. Large
black bill, dark eye, blue/green
sheen on black portion of wing.
Seen in flight and perched in
the top of a small tree at a level
lower than the observation point.

Similar species and how eliminated: Only similar species
would be yellow-billed magpie - this one
had a black bill

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
clear, sunny afternoon/evening, less than 100 yards - guessed at
seen with Nikon 10x50 binoculars + 20x Bausch + Lomb scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: seen many times on
trips in NE, SD + WY

References and persons consulted before writing description:
Nat'l Geo Birds of N. America 3rd Ed.

How long before field notes made? none made this form completed? 2 wks

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52246

Subj: **Fwd: Magpie**
Date: 9/28/99 10:09:33 PM Central Daylight Time
From: IOUFULLER
To: Thkent

Forwarded Message:

Subj: **Re: Magpie**
Date: 9/28/99 2:34:49 PM Central Daylight Time
From: smatx@uswest.net
Reply-to: smatx@uswest.net
To: IOUFULLER@aol.com

Jim,

Yes, I did see a black-billed magpie at Hitchcock last night. I took off work a little early and went up to Hitchcock to do a little hawk watching. We were hoping the swainson's would be coming through, they didn't. In the 5-6 P.M. hour I was looking at a hawk off the south end of the deck and a bird flew through my field of vision. You know how your mind processes these things - large, black and white, long tail, not a red headed woodpecker. I found the bird perched in the top of a pine tree to the south in the valley just off the deck of the lodge. It very definitely was a magpie, I put a scope on it at 20x and had my husband (the only other birder there) take a look too. I only watched it for a few minutes while it set there but then went back to looking for hawks. We had that spot very well covered all weekend and did not see the bird. Whether it was staying around or just passing through I would not be able to say since it was late enough in the evening for a passing bird to be looking for a place to roost. Hope this is helpful. It would be nice if it would hang around long enough for some others to see it.

Sue

IOUFULLER@aol.com wrote:

> Sue,
> Clem Klaphake suggested that you saw a Black-billed Magpie at the Hitchcock
> Nature Center on 9/27. Could I get some details? Do you think it was a bird
> on the move or one that might be found again in the area?
> Thanks,
> Jim Fuller
> The Iowa Birdline

----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <smatx@uswest.net>

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