

Black-billed Magpie 1
29 Dec 1990
nr. Sioux City, Woodbury Co., IA
Jerry Probst
IBL 61:50,53,58, 62:22

Record Number: 90-40
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Jerry Probst

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 61:53, 58
Christmas Bird Count: IBL 61:50
Records Committee: IBL 62:22

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D: This would be a hard bird to misidentify. Actually I would expect more of this species than are reported.

A-D: Conclusively described.

A-D: Not unexpected at this locale.

A-D: Adequate description. Jerry, it would help those of us not familiar with Sioux City to be more specific as to location where the bird was seen. "Across the Mo. River" suggests that the bird may have been in Nebraska. "East of the Floyd Monument Bridge" appears to place it in Iowa, however.

A-D: The details are sketchy, but in the case of this easy to identify bird seem adequate for the ID. Several known nests less than ten miles away is also quite supportive. I think yellow-billed can be eliminated by range and probability, you must prove it to be a yellow-billed, you can assume it's a black-billed in Iowa.

A-D: Fairly sketchy description, but adequate enough for such a diagnostically marked and colored species. Placement of black and white areas should have been noted. I don't know of any other black and white long tailed bird larger than a Blue Jay. This one looks beyond reasonable doubt to me.

A-D: Adequate details from a good, experienced birder.

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

CBC
90-40What species? BLACK-billed MAGPIE How many? 1Location? EAST OF FLOYD MONUMENT BRIDGE ACROSS MO. RIVER WOODBURY CO

Type of habitat? _____

When? date(s): 12-29-90 time: 4:30 to _____Who? your name and address: JERRY PROBST 1324 So St, AUBIN
SIOUX CITY IA 51106others with you: NONE

others before or after you: _____

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.

I WAS ON THE INTERCHANGE APPROACH TO THE BRIDGE ON THE IA SIDE. I SAW A BLACK + WHITE BIRD FLYING OVER THE RIVER IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION. I INSTANTLY COULD TELL IT WAS A MAGPIE BY THE SIZE, BLACK AND WHITE COLOR AND OF COURSE THE LONG TAIL.

I COULD TELL THE HEAD AND BACK WAS BLACK AND THE BELLY AREA WAS WHITE. I COULD ALSO SEE WHITE ON THE WINGS CONTRASTING WITH THE BACK AND ON THE PRIMARIES.

Similar species and how eliminated: NOTHING WITH THAT PROFILE LARGER + BLACKER THAN A BLUEJAY. WHITE COLOR + TAIL ELIMINATE CROW

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NONE

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: OVERCAST APPROX. 50 YARDS. UNABLE TO STOP UNTIL ACROSS BRIDGE + TRUCK PASSED. IT WAS GONE BY THIS TIME

Previous experience with species and similar ones: SEVERAL NESTS IN DAKOTA CO. NE LESS THAN 10 MILES AWAY.

References and persons consulted before writing description: N.G., FIELD GUIDE

How long before field notes made? 24 hrs this form completed? 12-31-90