

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/22/00

Mountain Bluebird

12 Mar 1996

Hidden Bridge W.A., Lyon Co., IA

\*Ed Thelen

IBL 66:105, 67:82

Record Number: 96-22

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Ed Thelen, RR 8275, Spirit L. 51360 [4/6/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:105

Records Committee: IBL 67:82

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Good description and expected time of year.

A-D, Good description, but what was the second bird?

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

96-22

What species? Mountain Bluebird - male How many? 1  
 Location? Hidden Bridge Wildlife Area - Lyon County  
 Type of habitat? Bluffs overlooking River Valley - Scattered trees & shrubs  
 When? date(s): March 12, 1996 time: 5:00 to 5:15 pm - fence line  
 Who? your name and address: Ed Thelen RR 8725 SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360  
 others with you: —  
 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 had driven about 1 mile down the dead-end road of the Hidden Bridge Wildlife Area when I spotted two bluebirds flying ahead of me from fence post to fence post. As I drove past them thinking how great it is seeing my first bluebirds of the year, I noticed one seemed to have some blue on the breast. I thought to myself - mt. Bluebird.

After finding a place to turn around I put my binoculars on the bird and found myself looking at a ♂ mt. Bluebird - no doubt about it. I could see the uniform blue plumage on the head, breast and back. I could also see some white coloration on the undertail coverts. Its eyes, feet and bill were all dark. Its ~~back~~ back, shoulders, rump, head and

Similar species and how eliminated:

- Eastern & western bluebird were eliminated (over) by the blue on the breast.

- shape, color, size and habits eliminated indigo bunting.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

GOOD - 40 + feet away 8.5 x 44 Swift binocs.  
 - cloudy bright 30x scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Observed out west and IN IOWA in 1989, 1994 and 1995

References and persons consulted before writing description: NONE

How long before field notes made? 1 day this form completed? month

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

tail were bright blue while its breast, throat, belly  
and flank a more subdued blue.

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