

Steller's Jay
30 Jun 1987
Lake Macbride, Johnson Co., IA
*Doris A. Hollis
IBL 57:122, 58:76

Record Number: 87-17
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Doris A. Hollis

REFERENCE

Field Reports: IBL 57:122
Records Committee: IBl 58:76

VOTE: 1-III, 1-IV, 2-V, 3-VI

V. If this was a Steller's Jay, how did it get to eastern Iowa?

V. The description sounds like Steller's Jay. The probability of seeing this species at this location at this time of year must be close to 0. An escapee also seems extremely unlikely. Could the observer's senses have been tricked?

IV. I had a very hard time with this record. Description is abbreviated on what seems to be an unlikely visitant to Iowa. I have no concept as to the vagrancy of this species outside its normal range. The description highly suggests a Steller's Jay but I would like to discuss this record in Nov. Perhaps shadows caused coloration effects noted. I want to hear more about this bird than is included on the documentation.

VI. While the description is very sketchy, it seemingly does describe a Steller's Jay or some wierd melanistic mutant Blue Jay even though the few Steller's I've seen have always seemed larger than Blue Jays in appearance. Until I see precedents of vagrancy for this species I will assume its journey to Iowa was aided by man.

VI. Possibility of an escape at a season when Iowans frequent Colorado.

VI. Seems correct, but almost certain escapee or pet transported from Rockies, etc.

III. Not quite as I would have described it, but it sounds like one. Must have gotton lost last winter or be another escape.

What species? Steller's Jay How many? 1Location? Lake MacBride, Johnson CoType of habitat? Brush - 'Island' on damWhen? date(s): 6/30/87 time: 6:30 PM to 6:35 PMWho? your name and address: Doris A. Hollis 5207 Benson Ave
others with you: Balto Md 21227

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.

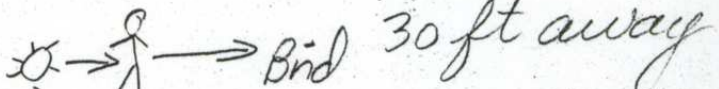
blue jay size, black crested head, all over blue body - not the same blue as a blue jay (darker, turquoise blue). No white. As soon as I saw it without binoculars, I recognized it as a Steller's Jay. I looked at it thru the binoculars & confirmed it, before I realized Steller's Jays were not supposed to be seen here.

Similar species and how eliminated: not the right color blue & no white on it.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

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

clear evening, low sun
7X35 binoculars  Bird 30 ft away

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

last 3 weeks observed many Steller's Jays - Colorado Utah
References and persons consulted before writing description: familiar with Blue Jays all my life
geographic guide

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 4 days life