

Black-billed Magpie
20 Nov 1986
Bonaparte, Van Buren Co., IA
*William Vickers
IBL 57:78

Record Number: 86-36
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

William P. Vickers

REFERENCE

Records Committee: IBL 57:78

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

V, Possibly correct, but description is so sketchy that it is difficult to judge validity of this record. When observer cites Loggerhead shrike as similar species, he must be unfamiliar with one or both species. No optical equipment was used and no mention of when description was written.

V, Although possibly correct, I don't think observations such as this belong in the record book.

III, Very poor description but adequate to describe this conspicuously colored bird.

IV, Probably a correct ID but from the documentation I don't even know the subject is a bird. If ID was correct it may possibly have been an escapee to have been in SE Iowa.

III, Poor description but enough for such a distinctive bird the observer knew from the west.

V, Description is of a Magpie. However source of bird is questionable. No information on feather condition, tameness of bird, etc. Not a confirmed invasion year. I could believe it to be a wild bird if other evidence of vagrants this winter.

III, Description is skimpy in the extreme, but then Magpies are distinctive. Besides, after this batch I'd give it a III just because it isn't a gull.

6-36

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

86-36

by the Records Committee

of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: *Black-billed Magpie*

DATE SEEN: *11-20-86*

SITE OF OBSERVATION: *Bonaparte, Van Buren Co.*

OBSERVERS: *William Vickers*

DATE OF REVIEW: *5-30-87*

METHOD OF REVIEW: *Vote*

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: *V*

COMMENTS:

The identification was possibly correct, but the description was so sketchy that it was hard to judge the record.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

86-36

What species? Maggie How many? 1
Location? East of Lindsay Walderness Bonaparte, Ia
Type of Habitat? Second growth woodland near open pasture
When? date(s): Nov 20, 1986 time: 9:00 AM
Who? your name and address: William J. DeKors Box 72, RR #1, Bonaparte, Ia,
↓
WAN BUREN COUNTY
Others with you: none
Others before or after you: After - W.C. Cokerell, Mike Bentley

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

About 18" long with long tail
Black and white with rapid call or
whine. Head somewhat similar to
a crow.

Similar species; how eliminated: Sagehead shrike, which
is much smaller

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no
If yes, explain:

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

Sunny day - 60 yds - none

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen in Western States and Kodiak Island

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Oneta Fisher

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? _____

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).