

Steller's Jay  
8 Oct 1994

Record Number: 94-45  
Classification: NA

3.5 n. of Ellsworth, Hamilton Co., IA

\*Jaclyn Hill

IBL 65:16, 82

#### DOCUMENTATION

Jaclyn Hill, 2946 Ubben Ave., Ellsworth 50075 [2/23/95]

#### REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 65:16

Records Committee: IBL 65:82

#### VOTE: 1 A-D, 6 NA

NA, Probable, but no description of bird.

NA, With no actual description of what was seen, this report is impossible to evaluate. Steller's Jay is unprecedented in Iowa, but there is evidently a record or two from NE Kansas, and at least one previous unaccepted report from Iowa. Occasionally, Blue Jays show aberrant plumages. Sometimes they show large amounts of white, and this winter, an all gray individual was seen in Des Moines.

A-D, Although detail is lacking, the fact that it was compared to Blue Jays and had no white at all is sufficient for a positive ID in this case.

NA, Intriguing report but need a bit more description than "shape of Blue Jay" and "no white in tail" to evaluate properly.

NA, No description of bird.

NA, No details given. We need at least a minimum of details to review this record. Voice not described to differentiate from Blue Jay. This bird could have been in shadows and white could have been missed or not been noticed if in deep shadow. We just need more that what is given for this record.

NA, A bird the shape of a Blue Jay with no white is certainly suggestive of Steller's, but other important characters noted, such as blackish head and whether there were any white streaks around the throat and face; if, as observers say, there was no white, this suggests the northwest coast form, which could likely only occur as an escaped bird.

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? STELLER'S JAY How many? ONE **94-45**Location? 3½ miles north of Ellsworth, IAType of habitat? Homestead of 60 soft maples, (old); 100 evergreen planted 1990;  
4 evergreen planted in 1968; 100 highbush cranberries planted 1990When? date(s): October 8, 1994 time: 10A.M. to 10:30A.M.Who? your name and address: JACLYN HILL 2946 UBBEN AVE ELLSWORTH IA 50075others with you: GERALD HILL (husband)others before or after you: none

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.

The voice alerted us to something different being in the yard.  
With field glasses and the National Geographic field guide I had no trouble deciding what it was. There were times it was only ten feet from the ground just above me.

Similar species and how eliminated: It was the shape of the Blue Jay in the yard also.It had no white on it at all.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? noIf yes, explain: :

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

BUSHNELL (sportview) 7x35 wide angle 500ft at 1000 yards  
NIKON 9x25 (sun to my back)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I am editor of the bluebird directory for Iowa Also have blue jays in the yard to compare.References and persons consulted before writing description: Beth Praescholdt of LiscombHow long before field notes made? IMMEDIATELY this form completed? NOV 19, 1994  
IN FIELD GUIDE