

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/24/00

Black-billed Magpie  
24 Jan 1998  
northwest, Plymouth Co., IA  
\*Brian L. Smith  
IBL 68:61

Record Number: 98-17  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Brian L. Smith, RR1, Box 66, Wiota 50274 [\*9/4/98]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:61  
Records Committee: IBL 69:90

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Distinctive bird seen at an expected time of year.

A-D, The brief description of black bird with long tail and white wing patches is adequate to identify this species at a location where it is not unexpected. It would be nice to know the exact location and how far it is from the nesting location in west-central Plymouth County.

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Black-billed Magpie (Pica pica) How many? 3 98-17Location? Northwest Plymouth CountyType of habitat? Loess Hills (prairie)When? date(s): 01-24-98 time: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_Who? your name and address: Brian L. Smith Conservation Officer (515) 571-0127 RR1 Box 66  
Wiota, IA 50277others with you: Mike Martin Conservation Officer

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.

Large black bird with extremely long tail and white wing  
~~patches~~ patches very visible in flight

current address

Cellular: (515) 571-0127  
Home: (712) 297-5353

**Brian L. Smith**  
State Conservation Officer

109 North 1st Street  
Rockwell City, IA 50579Similar species and how eliminated: Nothing similar w/ long tail & white wing patches.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? Yes.If yes, explain: Mike Martin & several others indicated that it would be very unusual to see this species in Iowa.

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

Overcast. 200-400 yds (estimate). 8X42 binoculars while flying (200)  
 20X spotting scope while perched (400 yds)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Quite familiar w/ the species after spending considerable time in the western U.S.References and persons consulted before writing description: Mike Martin, Steve Janson Conservation Officers. National Geographic Society Birds of North America.How long before field notes made? Immediately this form completed? 20 daysMAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240