

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/20/00

Black-billed Magpie

Record Number: 95-72

19 Nov 1995

Classification: A-D

Lineberry's Ranch, Plymouth Co., IA

*Bill Huser

DOCUMENTATION

Bill Huser, 401 E. 14th St., S. Sioux City, NE 68776 [*6/7/96]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:23

Records Committee: IBL 66:96

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Unmistakable bird in the most expected place in the state.

A-D, Description eliminates other possibilities, of which there are few if any.

95-72

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For extraordinary bird sightings in X_IA, __NE or __SD

Species: Black-billed Magpie

Number seen: 1

Location: Lineberry's Ranch, Sioux Tnshp., Plymouth County, Iowa

Habitat: rolling prairie hills with scattered thickets and trees

Date: Nov. 19, 1995

Time: 1400

Bill Huser, 401 E. 14th St., S. Sioux City, NE 68776

Others with me: none

Others before/after me: several parties: Armstrongs, Kent/Tetrault ?

Description: a rather large bird (between N. Flicker and A. Crow in size) with an exceptionally long (about 12 inch) tail and a striking black and white pattern. Identification was straight forward and immediate. The bird was seen perched and in flight. Black areas included the head and bill, back, upper breast and tail. The lower breast, belly and flanks were white. The extended wing showed both black and white.

Similar species & differentiation: there are no similar species other than California's Yellow-billed Magpie.

Disagreeing identifications: none

Conditions - light, distance & optics: Direct, frontal lighting, at approximately 60 yards. Minolta 10X50 binocs, Celestron 32X60 scope;

Previous experience with species: seen often near my home in Dakota County, Nebraska

References: National Geo. Field Guide

Notes taken, with bird in view: later: 11/19/95

Documented: 1/12/96

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