

1982-20 wfo

Species: Blue Jay  
 (Vernacular name)

Cyanocitta cristata  
 (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): December 20, 1982 Time Bird Seen: 11:00 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.

Locality: SW MENDON, CACHE, UTAH

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7X50 Tower's 10X

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Mike Tower took slides.

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult

Light conditions: Hazy, but satisfactory

Distance from bird, and how measured: 10-50 ft

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

*We first observed the bird in a tree near a road. It flew down & landed on a fence post near road & appeared to be eating suet. It flew back into trees near stream & down to ground & then back to trees & fence posts. Later we observed what we think was the same bird coming into a feeder at Kottler's residence.*

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

*large trees along a small stream & then in oak & maple trees near Kottler's residence & at their feeders.*

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Mike Tower - 7th St. & about 132 W. in Logan, Ut.

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

(How can you misidentify a blue jay?)

Light blue crest & back, face & throat white. Blue wings & tail with white underneath (belly area) white. Black line separates white face from light blue back & lighter colored breast.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Called from a perch in woods. Call was a clear "jay-jay-jay" (at least that's what the books say it is saying).

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Only other species to eliminate is the Steller's Jay. It doesn't have white in wings or a white face. Its head & back are a dark bluish-black - blue jay is much lighter.

Prior experience with this and similar species: lots of experience of Steller's Jay - Twice with Blue Jay in New York State

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_ after X observation; from memory \_\_\_

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