

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: BLUE JAY

Scientific Name: CYANOCITTA CRISTATA

Date: 11/4/87

Time: 4:40 PM

Length of time observed: 5 min.

Number: 1

Age: ?

Sex: ?

Location: PETERSON, MORGAN Co., Utah

Lat/long: 3

Elevation (if known): approx 5300 ft.

Distance to bird: 15 ft. +

Light conditions: good, but was quickly getting dark

Optical equipment: BINO'S 10X50

Weather: Cool/Clear

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Large, long tailed, crested bird approximately size and proportions of a Steller's Jay.

Back color much more true blue (rather than blue-black, or blue gray) than the other jays common to the area. This blue color predominated the dorsal areas - crest, back, wings, rump and tail. The blue tail was crossed by several black bars, and the corners of the tip of the tail were white.

There was a bright white wing bar and some patchy white spotting more towards the wing tips on the tertials. The tertials were also edged in black.

The face & throat were white and was bordered by a black border (necklace). There was a thin black line from the back of the eye to the black nape. The lores also appeared black.

The breast and belly were dirty white (not as bright as the face/throat area or the wing bars).

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

The loud jay, jay, jay call is what drew attention to the bird.
Behavior: I called repeatedly from 10 ft up in a brushy thicket

The bird was hopping from limb to limb in a hawthorn bush while I observed it although it had been seen at a nearby feeder.

Habitat: Riparian; hawthorn brush, cottonwoods, and an understory of grass + weeds.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Steller's - overall blue-black w/out wing bars or white ventral surfaces even the call was different

Scrub - Crestless, no black necklace, is dorsally blue gray and gray ventrally call different

Pinyon - overall blue gray, crestless

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Steller's, Scrub, + Pinyon - common here, as much as I can get or as much as I want!
Blue - lived in East for 4 yrs., I saw another Blue Jay in Utah in the fall of 1979.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

used both National Geo. + Audubon Master, but the description was taken as notes at time of sighting - the face area was particularly interesting when seen in detail

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Probably uncommon transient through state

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

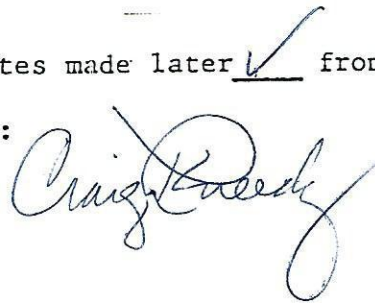
None

Description from notes taken at time of sighting notes made later from memory

Observer: CRAIG KNEEDY

Signature:

Address: 314 S. 4500 W.



West Point, Utah 84015

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

MR. & MRS. ALBERT GARBARD (1st SAW AT HOME FEEDER)

Bruce Heath et al

Date prepared:

11/11/87

Return this form to:

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