

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: BLUE JAY

Scientific Name: *Cyanocitta cristata*Date: ^{1st seen} Oct 17 1987 Time: 2^P

Length of time observed: comes nearly

Number: 1 Age: ?

Sex: ? every AM to our feeder - stays 5-10 min
leaves & returns several times thru AMLocation: 4452 N 3800 W
Peterson ut

Elevation (if known): 5200 ft (Morgan)

Latilong: #3

Distance to bird: 60 ft

Light conditions: Day light

Optical equipment: binocular 200 m
8 X - 17 X 40mm

Weather: clear wideangle AT 17 X

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

Bright Blue e crest

grayish belly, white throat

Black line under throat which extends up to
back of crestround spots of white like scallops on wings
also black barring wings and tail

about size of Red winged black birds - maybe

slightly smaller - These are often @ our feeders

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

Mostly the "Jay" cry. Occas when he lands in tree before going to feeder he makes a kind of whistling sound - almost like meow of a cat

Behavior:

Comes to feeder picks out seed - holds it in foot & cracks it open & eats (this is done on tree branch) other times he seems to pick up 6-10 seeds & store in mouth & flies away with all of them. - Does he store them? or eat them & then return

Habitat:

After leaving feeder he flies to group of cottonwood trees along Weber river

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

Other jays
we compared it to photos in bird books
Definite crest
white spots on wings
Black necklace @ throat up to crest

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Past 6-7 yrs have been interested in bird watching & have had feeders we try to identify them from bird books. We've seen Stellar Jays & Scrub jays in S. Utah & Arizona. This is 1st sighting of Blue Jay except as a child I saw them in Michigan

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

Field Guide to Birds of N. Amer - Nat'l Geog. Society
Master Guide to Birding The Audubon Society
Field Guide to Western Birds - Roger Tory Peterson

We read descriptions & used it to help describe what we saw

Significance of record in this area or the state:

OCCASIONAL VISITOR

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

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

Observer: ALBERT AND LENORE GABBARD Signature:

Address: RR#1 BOX 138-E
4452 N. 3800 W
Morgan UT 84050

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

CRAIG L. KNEEDY

Date prepared: 11-14-87

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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West Valley City, Utah 84120