

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

Species Scrub Jay 2. Number: 1
 Location Illinois Beach State Park, south end of pines
 Date: September 29, 1984 5. Time Bird seen: 12:40 to 12:41

Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): Size of Blue Jay. Long, slender bird with medium-long tail, but no crest. Wings & tail solid blue (no white), crown blue. Dark area through eyes (not black). Undersides dingy pale gray - throat not (over)

Description of voice, if heard: not heard (but suspicious Jay later heard)

Description of behavior: Perched on top of pine tree, holding small pine cone or similar object in mouth. Then flew north. Acted very wary.

Habitat - general:

specific: Pine woods near sand prairie with interspersed wet slough.

Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

(gray/blue/red)
Mexican Jay more uniform color & lacks tan area on back. Blue Jay lacks tan, has crest, white underneath, white wing bar & patch, white in tail

Distance (how measured)? 100 ft. est. (ie. 2 small house lots dist.) 12. Optical equipment: 10X70 Binoculars

Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Sun to rear of observers & bird. Clear sky

Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Experience only with Blue & Pinson Jays in wild.

Other observers: Beth Chato, George Mozurkewich. Also seen at dusk by others

Did the others agree with your identification? Yes acc'd to Larry Balch. (Richard Biss)

Other observers who independently identified this bird: Apparently, M. Os have seen it since 9/29

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

Peterson. A Field Guide to Birds (1980)

National Geographic, Field Guide to the Birds of North America
Appearance of our bird must be like "Interd." race (over)

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? Initially, on spot, then at 3:00 p.m. full description

Robert Chapel

Signature

Date:

Sept 29, 1984

1984.019

Clearly seen because bird was sitting in slightly turned-away-from-profile position. Bill much like Blue Jays in color & shape - or perhaps a bit heavier. Upper back to top of wings tan.

17. Bird had overall more "washed out" look than some field Quins shown (particularly Robbins, et al., Bstn of North America). Apparently other observers felt bird was of "interior" race, also. According to the Chicago Area Rare Bird Alert.