

House Finch
17 Jun 1983
Davenport, Scott Co., IA
*#Ann Barker
IBL 53:76; 54:39

Record Number: 83-37
Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATION

Ann Barker

PHOTOGRAPGH

Ann Barker (P-0132)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 53:76

Records Committee: IBL 54:39

VOTE: 1-I-P, 6-III

I-P, Have seen color photos.

III, Well observed and well described. I wonder if these are nesting in Iowa.?

III, Note: Omaha birders have seen a number of Purple Finches with brown streaks on flanks.

NOTE: Photos submitted after review.

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

83-37

by the Records Committee

of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: HOUSE FINCH

DATE SEEN: June 17, 1983

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Scott County, Iowa

OBSERVERS: Bill and Ann Barker

DATE OF REVIEW: January 1984

METHOD OF REVIEW: Mailed To Records Committee

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III (If colorphoto could be sent to Tom Kent, 211 Richards, Iowa City, 52240, may be classified I-P)

COMMENTS:

There was no disagreement in the Records Committee regarding this well described bird. It was suggested that a careful watch be made in order to determine if this bird may be nesting nearby if it reoccurs in 1984.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

Bill + Ann Barker
R.R. #3, Box 190
Davenport, Ia 52804
(319) 285-9425

Viewed through Bushnell 10x50
binocs
83-37

Male House Finch - 6-17-83 in yard around feeder T-P
(Our yard is at the edge of a suburban neighborhood
with 30 or so houses, with cultivated fields
immediately adjacent on 2 sides.)

bird was first seen about 6:10 PM at Sunflower
feeder 12' from window. Light overcast conditions,
plenty of light, wind probably 0-5 mph. Perched
on feeder and ate seeds for a minute or so, then
flew to a Maple tree 40' from house. Stayed in and
around yard until 7 PM, flying between the Maple,
a fence rail 35' away, and a Bradford Pear tree 20'
away, and the feeder or the bench below it. Seemed
quite shy - even more so than House Sparrows.
Began singing and continued periodically for 1/2 hr.
Song is finch like; second half of it is hoarse,
reminiscent of yellow-thr. Vireo or Scarlet Tanager. Usually
ended on a slightly downward inflection. Varied.

Appearance: Bright red on top part of head, breast and
rump. Really a true red - more in the direction
of orange than any Purple Finch I've seen. Definite
brown streaking on sides. Dark eye, brown cheek.
Finch type bill; upper mandible appeared very
slightly darker than lower bill at close range.
Brown back; really a brilliant red rump. Wings
& tail brown; didn't notice if tail was notched.

General Impression - a finch, slightly larger than Goldfinches
concurrently at feeder. A thinner or less puffy
appearance than Purple Finch, with brighter, more
orange red color. Shape of head may be flatter than
Purple Finch.

Books consulted: Robbins + Peterson Guides

83-37
R.R. #3, Box 190
Davenport, Ia 52804
June 18, 1983

Dear Tom -

Enclosed is a sheet with notes on a House Finch we saw yesterday at our feeder. We haven't seen it yet today, but will try to keep an eye out + document times it visits.

We took some pictures, but the bird was shy so most are fairly distant. Will send you any that turn out.

If he turns out to be a regular, visitors are welcome. Our phone is (319) 285-9425, evs. I'm keeping Pete notified also.

- Ann Barker