

Rosy Finch
Feb 1883
Sioux City, Woodbury Co., IA
D. H. Talbot
Talbot 1883

Record Number: 93-GC
Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Talbot, D.H. 1883. The Gray-crowned Finch in confinement.
Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club 8:240-242.
Anderson 1907

VOTE: 4 A-D, 1 no vote recorded

A-D, Talbot gives a very detailed description of a
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch that was captured and kept until at least
22 August. /thk

A-D, Convincing details of provenance of bird. /wrs

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THE GRAY-CROWNED FINCH IN CONFINEMENT.—I have the good fortune to have in my possession a fine, live specimen of *Leucosticte*, which I believe to be a male and a last year's "young of the year."

During February of this year (1883), which in this section of the country (Sioux City, Iowa) was an extremely cold month, many northern birds were driven south to feed and take shelter among us. During this time, when my collection of Snowy Owls and Rough-legged Hawks (*Archibuteo lagopus*) was rapidly increasing, the Gray-crowned Finches also came to pay us a visit. Although I did not see any at the time, it is evident they were here, for the bird I now have, with several others, was captured at that time by some boys in the western part of this city. It is the first time they have been known to visit this section. The wings of the birds were cut in such a way that they could not fly, and they were left to roam about the premises. The friend from whom I received my bird, secured by an accident this one the same month it was caught.

This gentleman informed me that when he purchased the bird, the tail feathers were out, and the wing feathers cut very close to the body; but what attracted him more particularly was its bright rose color. Upon my examination, about the middle of May, I found the bird in a very forlorn looking condition. The wing feathers were fully grown, but the tail feathers had again been pulled out, and though the rose color was very bright, almost as bright as in a Cassin's Purple Finch at its best, the general appearance of the bird was a sorry one. Carefully examining the coloration of the bird, I found that the rose color was very bright on the rump and crissum, and that it continued along the abdomen and on to the breast, well up to the fore neck. The gray, which was strongly silvered, extended well down on the nape, and up to the crown, thence passed towards the bill as far as the lores, encircling the eyes and covering the auriculars, but leaving a dark chocolate patch at the temples, which formed the dividing line at that point between the gray above and below, and connected with the like color of the neck. The patches on the crown, chin, and throat were very nearly of the same color,—dark brown; the crown patch might be called a black. Bill and feet black, the base of the bill encircled by an indistinct line of yellowish-white feathers. My friend informed me that but little change had taken place in the color of the bird from February to this date, except that the rose tint had become brighter.

The bird was represented as being a fine singer and perfectly contented, having for a companion a Canary. Shortly after this I started on my western tour, and, on returning a few days ago, this rare bird was presented to me. He is now (August 22) as fine a looking little fellow—plump, healthy and contented—as any bird lover would wish to have for a pet or study.

The summer has been, and is now, quite a sultry one, but this high-altitude bird having been kept in a cool place seems to fully enjoy his confinement. For one month he has not uttered a note, but has been engaged in putting on a new dress, which thus far presents the following: General color, dark chocolate, the feathers of the wings and tail almost black, with edgings of yellowish-white; the feathers on the neck, breast, and abdomen edged also, but with a more ashen tinge. Points of upper tail-coverts very prominent with yellowish-ash. *No rose color anywhere.* Crissum and tibia very light ash; lower tail-coverts light ash, with a few black central spots. Bill *yellow*, with black tip, and immediately back of this black tip the yellow has a peach-blossom tinge. The gray on the head is much duller than when I saw the bird last May, and now falls lower upon the neck, but, instead of covering the auriculars, only encircles the eyes with a very narrow line above and below, which disappears at the lores. The coloring of the auriculars is such that I think before long this part too will be of a like gray color, and will finally take on the former silvery effect. The crown patch of dark brown continues from its connection with the gray until it is separated from the bill by a very light line of pure white feathers encircling the base of the bill. The chin and throat patch are uniform umber brown. Feet and tarsi black.—D. H. TALBOT, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

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229. (524). *Leucosticte tephrocotis* Swainson. Gray-crowned Leucosticte.

"Breeding on higher mountains from Rocky Mts. of British America to Mt. Whitney, Calif.; migrating in winter through Rocky Mt. district of U. S. to Colorado; east, occasionally to western Iowa" (Ridgway). "Once recorded from Omalha by L. Skow, who knew it in the western part of the state" (Rev. Birds Neb., p. 84). The only definite Iowa record I have found is that of D. H. Talbot, at Sioux City, who states that in February, 1883, (an extremely cold month) several specimens were captured by boys in the western part of the city. A specimen kept alive had lost all rosy color after moulting—August 22 ("The Gray-crowned Finch in Confinement," Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, viii, 4, 1883, pp. 240-42).

Leucosticte tephrocotis tephrocotis (Swainson).

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch

DuMont 1934
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Accidental in Iowa. Anderson (1907) stated that the only definite record he had found was that of D. H. Talbot, at Sioux City, who stated that in February, 1883 (an extremely cold month) several specimens were captured by boys in the western part of the city. Talbot described (Bull. Nuttall Orni. Club, VIII, pp. 240-242) in detail the breeding plumage of one of these birds which he kept in captivity. There are no specimens.

Bent, A. C.: Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows and Allies. Bull 237 Part 1 US Nat Museum, Washington, 1968. pp 360-361

Casual record.—Casual in Iowa (Sioux City).