

Hoary Redpoll

23 Jan 1982

Pine Lake, Hardin Co., IA

\*N. Slife, \*Hollis, \*H. Zaletel, \*Robinson

to 02/22, photo by Hoogerheide P-36; IBL 52:28; 53:37

Record Number: 82-02

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATIONS

Nancy Slife, 23 Jan

Richard J. Hollis, 27 Jan

Hank Zaletel, 30 Jan

John C. Robinson, 30 Jan

PHOTOGRAPH

John Hoogerheide, P-0036

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 52:28

Records Committee: IBL 53:37

VOTE: 5-I-P, 2-II

II, Photo not diagnostic.

I-P, I saw the bird briefly and concur.

I-P, Clearly a Hoary.

REVOTE (at meeting, 20 November 1982): 7-I-P

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation  
 by the Records Committee  
 of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: Hoary redpoll

DATE SEEN: 23-30 Jan 1982

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Pine Lake, Hardin Co., Iowa

OBSERVERS: Slife, Hollis, Zaletal, Robinson, Hoogerheide

DATE OF REVIEW: 22 August 1982

METHOD OF REVIEW: mail vote

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: Class II

COMMENTS: This record was classified as a class II sighting rather than as a class I, because the photo submitted did not show two crucial features: the bill and the undertail coverts.

The records committee was unanimous in its opinion that the bird was indeed a Hoary redpoll.

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.

What species? Hoary Redpoll (male) How many? 1

Location? Feeding Stations at our cottage ... lower PineLake in Hardin Co.

Type of habitat? Woodland -

First sighting  
When? date(s): January 23, 1982 at 11:45 am to \_\_\_\_\_

Who? your name and address: Nancy Slife - R.R.#2 PineLake - Eldora, Ia.

others with you: (See attached papers) 50627

others before or after you: yes - after me - see attached papers.

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Size: 5"-5 1/2" in length

Shape: Like that of a small Finch (i.e. goldfinch or pine siskin)

Head: Overall, white to silver gray cast

eye: dark

eyebrow: white

ear coverts: gray to silver cast, slight buff tinge, not very noticeable

crown: red cap

bill: yellowish ... short, conical - could not see any noticeable difference in size of bill between Hoary + Common Redpoll.

Nape and Back: Overall, <sup>soft</sup> gray cast ... No brown or buff coloration ... thin silver white and black stripes on back.

Wings: Secondary and primary feathers grade from black to dark gray ... edged in silver white.

Wing bars: Silver

Tail feathers: Black to dark gray with white edging

Chin: Small, distinct, black chin spot

Breast: Silver white ... slight tinge of pink at top of breast.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Similar species, Common Redpoll. The first Common Redpoll appeared at our feeders January 13, 1982. The flock of Common

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: 7x50 binoculars

Have had an excellent opportunity to observe the Hoary Redpoll several times daily in the past 18 days. Under ideal lighting conditions from slightly overcast to sunny days. Range as close as 2-4'.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No previous experience with Hoary Redpoll. Have had Common Redpolls at our feeders in past winters.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Audubon Encyc. to North Am. Birds  
A Field Guide to the Birds, R.T. Peterson; Audubon Society Field Guide to North Am. Birds;

How long before field notes made? \_\_\_\_\_ this form completed? Feb. 9, 1982

The field notes were made at the times of actual observations

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

The Hoary Redpoll has come to the feeding stations <sup>every</sup> day from January 23rd through today (February 9th) Five feeders are located on the east side of the cottage. These feeders are stocked with sunflower seeds and thistle seeds. The feeders are approximately from one <sup>foot</sup> (window feeder) to 15' in distance from the east bay window. The Hoary Redpoll often perches on branches of a mature sumac as close as 2'-4' from the bay window. I have observed it many times in the past 18 days at eyelevel and from above and below eyelevel at this distance.

Description continued ...

- Belly: Silver white
- Flank: 2 pencil-thin, broken, gray lines on each side of breast
- Under tail coverts: Pure white to the tip with no flecks.
- Rump: Silvery white with no streaks or flecks ...  
Very slight tinge of pink coloration
- Legs and feet: Black
- Behavior: <sup>Feeds on the ground - Thistle seed and chaff of sunflower seeds.</sup> Have noticed aggressiveness while feeding.  
<sup>Sometimes</sup> ~~Hoary~~ appears more restless or nervous than Common Redpoll.

Similar Species, continued:

Redpolls ~~have~~ <sup>has</sup> grown to approximately 40-50 as of February 9, 1982. Within this flock of Common Redpolls there are many females which appear quite light in coloration. I have been able to observe many times a side-by-side comparison with the Hoary Redpoll and light, female Common Redpolls. The Hoary Redpoll appears much lighter and silvery in coloration. This contrast is quite obvious. The Common Redpolls back and nape have an overall brownish cast with buff and black stripes on the back compared to the soft gray cast of the Hoary Redpoll's back with silver + black stripes - no buff coloration. Also the very fine, pencil-thin lines along the flank of the Hoary Redpoll differs from that of the heavy flank-lines of the Common Redpoll. The Hoary Redpoll's rump ~~and undertail coverts are without any flecks or stripes, but the Common Redpoll's rump and undertail coverts have flecks and streaks.~~

(account) ... 5891 82-02  
Others with me that observed the  
Hoary Redpoll at our feeders.

Jan. 25, 1982: Garnita Seward (Eldora) 5891 H. 10.1  
Observed the Hoary Redpoll several  
times from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Jan. 26, 1982: Garnita Seward (Eldora)  
Ramona Sommerlot (Eldora)  
Phyllis Harris (Union)  
Beth Proescholdt (Liscomb)  
all observed the Hoary Redpoll many  
times, as close as 3' from  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. (Beth Proescholdt  
submits our "Field Reports" from this area.)

Jan. 27, 1982: Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Knight (Iowa City)  
(just a very brief glimpse of it) afternoon

Jan. 28, 1982: Mike Newlon } (Iowa City)  
Rick Hollis }  
(only a quick look at it) afternoon

Jan. 30, 1982: Joe Schaufembuel } Ames  
John Robinson }  
Hank Galatel (Colo)  
Mark Proescholdt (Liscomb)  
Beth Proescholdt (Liscomb)  
all had an excellent view of the  
Hoary Redpoll as it frequently  
visited the feeding stations in  
the morning.

Jan. 31, 1982 . John and Maggie Hoogerheide (Des Moines)  
Excellent view of the  
Hoary Redpoll in the morning  
and early afternoon.

Feb. 4, 1982 . Allen C. Hahn }  
Jim Sawyer } muscatine  
Excellent view of the Hoary Redpoll  
Observed it quite closely at 3-4'  
at all angles ... in the morning.

All of the people listed, with the exception  
of Rick Hollis, Mike Newlon, MIM Cal Knight, had  
excellent opportunities to observe the Hoary  
Redpoll. It appeared at the feeders frequently  
(and was seen by the observers at eye-  
level and from above eyelevel (resulting in  
a good look at the undertail coverts) and  
from below eyelevel (good look at rump and  
back.) The lighting was excellent, with  
a slight overcast most days. It was seen  
as close as 2-3'. Everyone commented on  
what a good species example this Hoary Redpoll  
was. Identical in every way to the male  
Hoary Redpoll depicted in R.T. PETERSON'S new  
"field guide" (although the one here at Pine Lake  
does have a pale pink rump of almost  
translucent quality) --- "Much whiter" than  
the one in the guide was the consensus  
of the observers in regard to the overall coloration.  
(continued)

(cont.)

Approximately 40-45 Common Redpolls were feeding in the same area as the Hoary Redpoll. This flock included several light female Common Redpolls. There were many opportunities to compare these birds. The contrast of the Hoary Redpoll to the light female Common Redpolls was quite evident and noted by all other observers.

Nancy Slipe  
February 6, 1982

Several of the observers have photographed the Hoary Redpoll. As soon as I receive a copy of a photograph I'll see send it to you.

Additional Observers:

February 7, 1982

James Huntington - Iowa City  
Bob Myers - Waterloo  
Francis Moore - Waterloo  
Russell Hays - Waterloo  
B.G. and Sharon Rose - Omaha, Neb.

( all of these people  
had an excellent  
opportunity to observe  
the Hoary Redpoll  
several times through-  
out the day. )



What species? Hoary Redpoll How many? 1Location? 1 Mile NE of EldoraType of habitat? feeder in woodland cabin areaWhen? date(s): 27 January 1982 time: 5' to around 3 PMWho? your name and address: Richard J Hollis 3351 Lower W Branch Rd Iowa City 358 52240others with you: MC Newton + N. Slief (sp?) (MCN likely has photos)others before or after you: N Slief + others

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

similar in size, <sup>shape</sup> + behavior to the ~~12-15~~ 12-15+ C. Redpolls that ~~was~~ were on thistle seed feeders + ground beneath feeders.

No voice heard as we were inside

## Distinguishing features

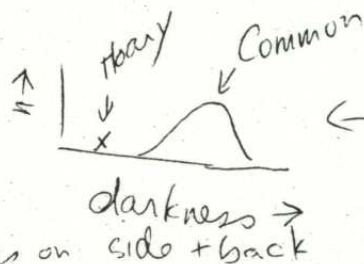
1. If this is dist of color of Redpolls we saw the light color appeared to be due to:

- a. a gray vs brown (Common) of stripes on side + back
- b. a white vs dusty ground color
- c. stripes being finer

2. The under tail coverts appeared unmarked

3. Bill looked smaller and to me thinner - at the most of the time the bird was facing away

4. Unfortunately the entire time we observed the bird, it held its wings tightly closed + we could not see its rump.



← It clearly was significantly different from the other birds

and or was moving its bill

Similar species and how eliminated: Common Redpoll see above

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
 7x30 B&L Roof Prisms, light overcast, 6-10 feet, obs thru windows

light Direction note a factor

Previous experience with species and similar ones: none w. Hoary.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None after seeing bird

Although MCN + I discussed it after seeing it together

How long before field notes made? < 12 hrs this form completed? < 12 hrs

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

Middlewestern Prairie Region  
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

82-02

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species HOARY REDPOLL 2. Number: 1
3. Location HOME OF NANCY SLIFE ON PINE LAKE, ELDORA IOWA
4. Date: JANUARY 30, 1982 5. Time Bird seen: MANY TIMES IN THE MORNING to \_\_\_\_\_
6. 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): BIRD SAME SIZE AS REDPOLL  
RED CAP - HEAD GRAY WHITE AS WELL AS NAPE AND BACK - RUMP  
WHITE WITH NO COLORING OR STREAKS - TAIL GRAY WITH WHITE EDGING -  
BREAST WHITE WITH ONE FAINT BROWN STREAK ON EACH SIDE - WHITE WING  
BAR - BLACK CHIN - WINGS DARK GRAY - UNDERSIDE OF BIRD WHITE TO  
TAIL TIP - SLIGHTLY DARKER WHITE WHERE LEGS EMERGE FROM BODY
7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD
8. Description of behavior: FORAGING FOR SEED ON GROUND  
PERCHED IN NEARBY SUMMAC
9. Habitat - general: LAKE EDGE, TIMBERED  
specific: SIDE YARD OF COTTAGE
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
OTHER COMMON REDPOLLS WERE WHITE AND BUFF ON HEAD, NAPE, BACK  
AND BACK OF TAIL, SIDES HEAVILY STREAKED, MALES RED ON BREAST  
RUMPS STREAKED WITH BUFF
11. Distance (how measured)? THREE FEET 12. Optical equipment:  
NONE NEEDED
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
SKY OVERCAST, SUN AT OUR BACKS
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
15. Other observers: NANCY SLIFE, BETH PROESCHOLDT
16. Did the others agree with your identification? YES
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: JOE SCHAUFENBUEL  
JOHN ROBINSON
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA - ROBBINS  
FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS - PETERSON
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
- Hank Zuletel Address: 715 WEST ST COLO, IA 50056  
Signature
- Date: JANUARY 30, 1982 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation Form

Species: Hoary Redpoll

Number: 1

82-02

Location: Eldora, Iowa, Hardin Co., Eldora Twsp.

Habitat: Residential area with sumac and birch trees bordering a large lake which was frozen at the time of observation.

Dates: 30 Jan. 1982

Time: Intermittently between 7:30 am to 9:00 am

Observer: John C. Robinson/P.O. Box 1015/Welch Ave. Station/Ames, Iowa 50010

Other Observers: Joe Schaufenbuel

Description: Voice was not heard. When seen, this bird was always with Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches. When alarmed it flew with the other redpolls to seek cover. The Hoary Redpoll was quite tame and allowed close approach (within two feet) when observers were inside the house which was adjacent to the bird feeders at which the bird was seen.

About the size of the goldfinches, siskins and Common Redpolls with which it was associating, this bird was obviously a redpoll as it had a bright red cap and a black chin. It was identified as a Hoary based on the following characteristics: a) undertail coverts white without any dark markings; b) dark streakings on front of breast absent; streakings on side severely restricted; c) white, unstreaked rump with a very slight shade of pink; d) back coloration pale gray; e) breast coloration a frosty white.

Similar Species: Common Redpolls have a darker overall coloration, a streaked rump and breast, and darker undertail coverts.

Harris' Sparrow: this species is much larger and has black more extensively on the chin and chest as well as on the crown. Rump is dark.

Agreement: The other observer agreed with the identification.

Viewing conditions: Light conditions were excellent; estimated distance was 0.6 meters to 8 meters; optical equipment: Pentax 10x50 binoculars.

Previous experience: I have seen many Common Redpolls prior to this observation. This was my first Hoary Redpoll.

References: Field Guide to North American Birds by C.S. Robbins  
Field Guide to the Birds by R.T. Peterson

This report was written six hours after the bird was seen.