

House Finch  
15 Apr 1983  
Liscomb, Hardin Co., IA  
\*B. Proescholdt  
IBL 53:55; 54:39

Record Number: 83-20  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Beth Proescholdt

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 53:55  
Records Committee: IBL 54:39

VOTE: 7-III

III, Direct comparison with Purple Finch very helpful.

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

83-20

by the Records Committee  
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: HOUSE FINCH

DATE SEEN: 15 Apr 1983

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Hardin County

OBSERVERS: B. Prosscholdt

DATE OF REVIEW: 1983

METHOD OF REVIEW: Mailing to Committee

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III

COMMENTS: A unanimous vote by the Committee for a III. The bird was well-described, direct comparison with Purple Finch being very useful and convincing.

Another species, along with Great-tailed Grackle, which may become common in Iowa, perhaps however, not being a welcome development.

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? House Finch ♂ How many? 1 IIILocation? our feeders at LiscombType of habitat? open yard, locust tree (& many others), large shrubsWhen? date(s): April 15, 1983 time: 10:00AM to 11:15 AMWho? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Phyllis Harris, Ramona Sommerlot

others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Reddish-orange was the color of rump, eyebrow stripe, throat and "bib" that ended abruptly (not with the color continuing on to belly as in a ♂ Purple Finch). The crown was brown, there were brown streaks on flanks and belly, & the back was brown with darker brown stripes, not colored red as in a Purple Finch. The wings were slightly darker brown than the back. It seemed to be the same size as the Purple Finches it fed with (although it is supposed to be smaller.), when first seen it was at a feeder with Purple Finches showing a great contrast in color. It fed at the feeder, on the ground, & perched in a locust tree 10 minutes during the time it was observed. It was not seen later. No voice heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: Purple Finch — it was reddish-orange, not raspberry colored — it had streaked flanks & belly — & it had brown back with no red coloration.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny day, sun shining from behind us & on the bird, 15' away at feeder, 25' at tree & binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen House Finches in Washington (state) — & of course many Purple FinchesReferences and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson's new guide, Birds of N. America by Robbins, et al; & Bird Watchers Digest, Mar, Apr, pp's-10How long before field notes made? made at once this form completed? May 25