

Lesser Goldfinch

5 Aug 1999

Rockford, Floyd Co., IA

\*Ellen S. Montgomery

IBL 70:43, 145; P-0627

Record Number: 99-23

Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATION

Ellen S. Montgomery, 13675 Spruce Ave., Mason City, IA 50401

PHOTOGRAPHS

Ellen S. Montgomery, P-0627

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 70:43

Records Committee: IBL 70:145

VOTE: 7 A-P

A-P, The photographs clearly show the bird's smaller size in comparison to American Goldfinch, the black crown, greenish back, and white wing patch. It appears to be an adult male from the western part of the species' range.

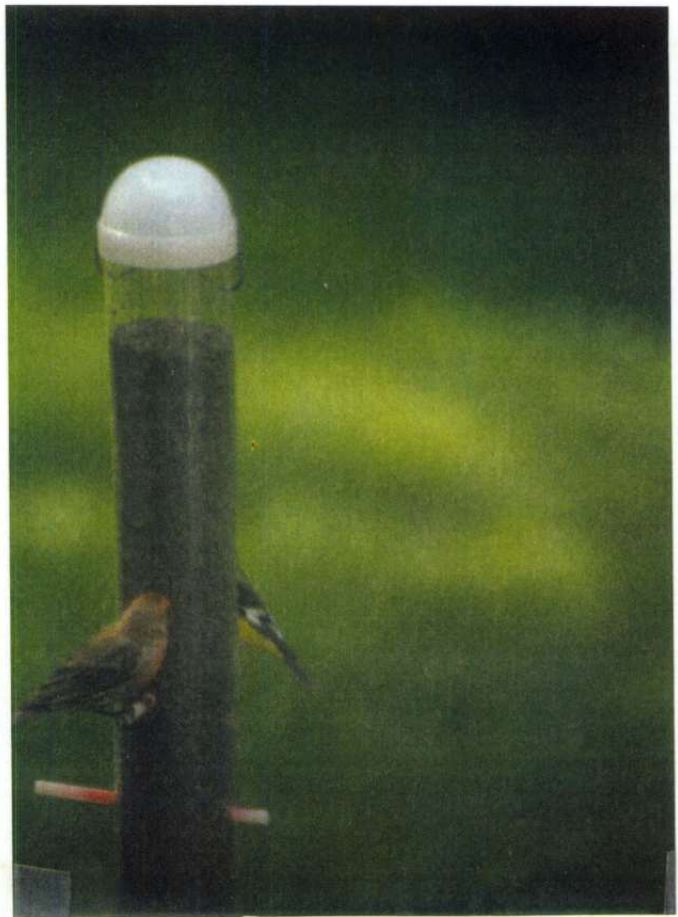
A-P, There is not much doubt about the id based upon the photo, so I suppose one should consider origin. While this species is a common cage bird in Mexico, it also has a tendency to wander around some, as indicated in Birds in Iowa. I think the probability of natural origin is far greater than the possibility of escape for captivity.

A-P, Good description, but it is nice to have photo of first state record that shows all the field marks, including yellow undertail coverts of a green backed (*hesperophilus*) male.

A-P, Photos showing enough details to determine age, sex, and area of geographic origin.

A-P, The black cap and face and white bar on primaries identify this male goldfinch. The bird has a greenish back but black scapulars. Although most birds of the eastern Rocky Mountains are black-backed, some have green backs. This bird appears to be intermediate.

A-P, Great photos!



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What species? Lesser Goldfinch How many? 1Location? 1105 200<sup>th</sup> ST, Rockford IA - Floyd Co. Rockford Township Sec 5Type of Habitat? Scattered oak trees, open pasture, brush - along Winnebago R.When? date(s): Aug 5, 1999 time: 5:35 PM to 5:55 PMWho? your name and address: ELLEN S. MONTGOMERY 13675 SPRUCE AVE MASON CITY IA 50401Others with you: NONEOthers before or after you: Before - BARB MCKINSTRY (FLOYD CO. NATURALIST)  
Unable to locate bird following day

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Small, slender bird. (Smaller than American goldfinches on feeders at same time) Short, sturdy bill. Entire crown black. Neck and back were greenish. Wings black with large white wing patches at base of primaries. Tail black. Throat, breast, belly and undertail coverts were bright yellow. Undulating flight. Eating nyjer seed at feeders with American goldfinches and house finches. Quite aggressive towards American Goldfinches.

Similar species; how eliminated:

American goldfinch - bird was smaller, entire crown was black, had yellow undertail coverts

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Late afternoon sun, 20ft (tape measure), 8x42 Swift binoculars - Viewing thru windows

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have observed lesser goldfinches several times in the southwestern U.S.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic Field Guide, 3rd Ed, Rita Coranson + Curt Nelson

How long before field notes made? immediate this form completed? 6 weeks

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).