

Hoary Redpoll
28 Feb 1996
Ames, Story Co., IA
*S. Dinsmore
IBL 66:60; 67:82

Record Number: 96-08
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames 40014 [4/6/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:60
Records Committee: IBL 67:82

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, (exilipes first basic)

A-D, Another first year Hoary with all features described.

A-D, Undertail, rump, bill, and overall color fit this species. "The under tail coverts were pale with no dark streaks..." seems to be contradicted by "the presence of dark color on the undertail coverts."

A-D, Good description, direct comparison with Common helpful.

96-08

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Hoary Redpoll
Number: 1 first-basic
Location: our feeder in Ames, Story Co., IA
Habitat: feeder
Date: 28 February 1996
Time: 9:35-10:00 a.m.
Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014
Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird(s): I was watching a group of three redpolls at our feeder when I noticed that one bird was significantly paler than the other two. As far as I could tell, the bird was the same size as the two Commons. The bird had a red "poll" which was much smaller than that of a Common and restricted to the crown. There was no red on the breast or rump. The bill was slightly shorter than the bills of the two Commons, and the culmen was straighter. The bird had a prominent buffy auricular area. The mantle was pale (almost a white background color) with darker brown streaks. I got a very good look at the rump when the bird perched facing away from me and preened for several minutes. I could see that the rump was entirely white and very unlike the rump of a nearby Common under the same conditions. The underparts were white with some faint brown streaks along the flanks and sides of the breast. The undertail coverts were very pale with no dark streaks of other markings on any of the feathers. The wings showed a prominent white bar across the secondary coverts. I concluded the bird was in first-basic plumage because of the darker mantle color, prominent streaking on the flanks, and lack of clear white edges to the tertials. As expected, this bird was likely of the nominate race exilipes because of the small size, darker body color, and the presence of dark color on the undertail coverts.

Similar species and how eliminated: The only similar species is Common Redpoll. The combination of overall paleness, pale rump, mostly unstreaked undertail coverts, smaller crown patch, and bill size and shape were used to eliminate Common Redpoll.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with clear skies. Estimated viewing distance was 10-15 feet. I used 10x42 binoculars.

Previous experience with species: I have seen one other Hoary Redpoll this winter in Iowa, plus one in Massachusetts. I am very familiar with Common Redpolls.

References consulted: NGS Field Guide to the birds of North America
Czaplak, D. 1995. Identifying Common and Hoary Redpolls
in winter. *Birding* 27: 47-57.

How long before field notes made: written during observation
How long before this form completed: 5 days