

Pine Grosbeak
28 Nov 1995
Davenport, Scott Co., IA
*Fred Lorenzen fide P. Petersen
IBL 66:25, 66:97

Record Number: 95-60
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

P. Petersen response to request from T. Kent [3/24/96]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:25
Records Committee: IBL 66:97

VOTE: 3 A-D, 4 NA

A-D, I hesitate to accept second-hand records. It is extremely difficult to determine what the observer actually saw. I accepted this bird due to its rather distinctive appearance, but would be reluctant to accept fide documentations of birds more difficult to identify.

NA, I have no doubt that this bird was correctly identified by a capable observer. My problem is with "fide" documentations. This simply introduces another variable into the mix. Was the observer prompted? Was the information accurately recorded? As I recall from reviewing historical records, we consistently turned down secondhand reports. I see no reason to change that now.

A-D, I think we should formulate a policy on "fide" documentations.

NA, Would rather have sketchy documentation from actual observer than notes taken more than two weeks after the fact. I find it difficult to evaluate second-hand information as, intentional or not, some bias can creep in.

NA, Yes, the observer should write the documentation without influence from others.

A-D, We certainly want to see that all like and reasonable records are reviewed by this committee. This record and other records like it should try to get the documentation or description of the record if at all possible and if it cannot be from the person who saw the record first hand then a fide can and should be reviewed if the record is considered important to the written ornithological record in Iowa.

NA, I don't think a fide documentation is to be considered evidence. A court of law calls this 'hearsay'!

REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION

To: Pete Petersen

From: Tom Kent, Field Reports Editor, Iowa Bird Life, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

Sometimes I am on the fence as to whether to include a bird sighting in the report or not, usually because I don't have enough information or the sighting is so unusual that I would like to check on it. I have a choice of making a decision or seeking more information. This form is an attempt to do the latter.

I would appreciate it if you would return this form in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope as soon as possible so that I can make alterations in the report before it is published. Thanks.

Record: Pine Grosbeak, 28 Nov 95, E. Davenport

Significance: canid species requires document

Information requested:

- confirm date 28 Nov. correct.
- how well seen (viewing time, distance, view, other details)
- description of bird (as much as you can honestly remember)
- voice (heard?, what was heard?) no
- can other observers also provide details? no

also, Lesser BB Gull +
 S. b. n. Gull should be
 documented, but I
 can use your notes.
 But please put notes
 on separate pages
 so that they
 can be
 filed by
 species.
 Thanks
 TK

95-60

Observer - Fred Lorenzen
 & 21 Marlo Davi

5-7 min; 3m. at Feeder - clear view.
 larger than Cardinals, eating black sunst.
 smaller than Blue Jay, b. nois. not
 which chased it. needed.
 seen in P.M.

Body pale grey, wings black with
 2 white bars. tail black, notched.
 Top of head yellowish brown, extending
 to upper back. Bill heavy, black.

Notes taken 12/15 by phone. R.P.

Obs. an avid hunter & feeder
 watcher in mid 60's. Former
 outdoor ed. of Q.C. Times.

95-60

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Sibbe's Gull should be
documented, but I
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Record: Pine Grosbeak, 28 Nov 95, E. Davenport

Significance: canid species requires document

Information requested:

- confirm date 28 Nov. correct. Observer Fred Lorenzen 1621 Marko-Dave
- how well seen (viewing time, distance, view, other details) 5-7 min; 3m. at feeder - clear view.
- description of bird (as much as you can honestly remember) larger than Cardinals smaller than Bluejay which chased it. eating black sunf. binocs not needed. seen in P.M.
- voice (heard?, what was heard?) no
- can other observers also provide details? no

Body pale grey, wings black with 2 white bars. tail black, notched. Top of head yellowish brown, extending to upper back. Bill heavy, black.

Notes taken 12/15 by phone. R.P.

Obs. an avid hunter & feeder watcher in mid 60's. Former outdoor ed. of Q.C. Times.