

House Finch

3 Jun 1982

Pocahontas, Pocahontas Co., IA

\*Wallace Jardine

IBL 52:94; 53:36

Record Number: 82-21

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

W. Jardine

REFERENCE

Field Reports: IBL 52:94

Records Committee: IBL 53:36

VOTE: 4-III, 2-IV, 1-VI

IV, Sounds fairly good but not convincing enough to add to state list.

III, Streaks and... top of head convincing.

III, description seems to fit but rather undetailed.

VI, Top of head should be red for H. Finch, also rump and breast should be red, not raspberry. Not convinced it was not a Purple Finch changing from imm. to ad. plumage.

IV, Possible but not well-enough described. Need more info on streaking and bill shape (culmen). Why not Cassin's Finch? In my experience (in NC) House and Purple differences aren't as clearcut as is shown in Peterson's new guide.

III, and *Carpodacus* in summer/late spr. in Iowa could be either *C. purpureus* or *C. mexicanus*. If Jardine is accurate in doc. -- brown back, head and side streaks clinch.

REVOTE (at meeting, 20 November 1982): 6-III, 1-IV

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

SPECIES: House Finch

DATE SEEN:

SITE OF OBSERVATION:

OBSERVERS: W. Jardine

DATE OF REVIEW: November 1982

METHOD OF REVIEW: Discussion followed by secret ballot.

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III

COMMENTS: Based on new evidence, the committee voted to accept this sighting as a class III record.

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.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

82-21

1. Species HOUSE FINCH 2. Number 1
3. Location POCAHONTAS, IA. Rt2 Box 9 50574  
4:30 PM - 4:40 PM
4. Date: 6-3-82 5. Time Bird Seen: 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM
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): A SPARROW SIZED BIRD FEEDING WITH GOLDFINCHES FIRST CAUGHT MY EYE. THIS BIRD HAD A SPARROW COLORED BACK WITH A RASPBERRY WASH TO THE RUMP. A GREAT DEAL OF RASPBERRY WAS NOTED AROUND THE HEAD BUT THE TOP OF THE HEAD & BACK OF THE HEAD & NECK WERE GRAY/BROWN, THE SAME AS THE BACK. THE BREAST WAS RASPBERRY GIVING WAY TO A BELLY OF LIGHT GRAY ~~WITH~~ WITH HEAVY STREAKS AT THE SIDES. THIS BIRD WAS NOT AS FLIGHTY OR NERVOUS AS THE WEAVER FINCHES OR GOLD FINCHES WITH WHICH IT WAS FEEDING. I WATCHED THIS BIRD FOR 45 MIN. AS IT FED AT THE FEEDER AND FLEW TO NEARBY TREES.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD.
8. Description of behavior: FEEDING AT THISTLE FEEDER (10 MIN.)  
FEEDING AT SUNFLOWER FEEDER (HEARTS & SEEDS) (ASHING)
9. Habitat - general: BACKYARD. TREES, SHRUBS, BIRD BATHS, FEEDERS, ETC.  
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7, & 8.  
Explain: PURPLE FINCH.
11. Distance (how measured)? 30' TO THISTLE FEEDER  
100' TO SUNFLOWER FEEDER  
ESTIMATED. 12. Optical equipment:  
10X BINOCULAR
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
FULL SUN FROM WEST. SUN → • • BIRD N  
• HE ↑
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
NONE
15. Other observers: MY WIFE BETTY
16. Did the others agree with your identification? YES.
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: NONE.
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: PETERSON'S FIELD GUIDE. CONFIRMED MY OBSERVATION.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
17 DAYS.
- Signature: J. J. Jardine Address: RR2 BOX 9, POCAHONTAS, IA.
- Date: 6-20-82 City, State: 50574