

Boreal Chickadee
23 Nov 1978
Osage, Mitchell Co., IA
*Andy Wollfries
to 25 Nov; IBL 49:25

Record Number: 81-GO
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Andy Woolfries, 24-26 Nov 1978

REFERENCE

Field Reports: IBL 49:25.

VOTE (1981): 6-III, 1-IV

III, adequate description.

III, details convincing.

III, Careful description of a feeder bird in Nov 1978 --
documented.

IV, Same comment as for 3.

87-60

Halmi, N. S. 1979. Field reports. Iowa Bird Life 49:23-26 (p 25)

Passerines. Several correspondents remarked on the abundance of Horned Larks. Technically a fall observation, but still noteworthy, is the presence of 2 Boreal Chickadees at an Osage feeder November 23-25 (AW). The description is convincing. One or 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen, some of them with

4

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

81-60

(4)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Boreal Chickadee 2. Number: 2
3. Location Osage, Iowa Home feeder board
at least 20 times through the
4. Date: November 24, 25, 26, 1978 5. Time Bird seen: period shown to
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):
Distinctive dark (chocolate) brown cap with reddish-brown tinges on sides and back. Same size as common chickadees with which it was flocking. Repeatedly checked at close range with illustration on page 214 of "Birds of North America".
7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard.
8. Description of behavior: Same as other (common) chickadees - pick up a sunflower seed and carry it to adjacent clothes line for shucking.
9. Habitat - general: Home bird feeder - back yard - shrubs and trees.
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Associated with other chickadees but noticeable because of distinctive brown cap. There appeared to be only two. They were positively identified at least 20 times from a distance of about six feet. Reference: "Birds of North America".
11. Distance (how measured)? Six feet. 12. Optical equipment: None
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Various sky conditions over three days.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: None. I was not aware this was an unusual sighting until informed by Gladys Black.
15. Other observers: None
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Book reported above. Identification positive from close-up viewing repeated many times.

Andy Woolfries Address: 410 Mechanic S t., Osage, IA.
Signature
Date: January 6, 1979 City, State: Osage, Iowa. 50641

(over) ?