

Hoary Redpoll
< 1907
Linn Co., IA
Berry
Anderson 1907

Record Number: 81-KK
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Anderson 1907
VOTE (1981): 3-V, 4-VI
V, no description.
IV, no details but possible.

GENERAL COMMENTS from Mike Newlon, July 1981.

Redpolls: FYI. Balch (in Ill. Aud. Bull.) gives following as characteristic marks: (1) Unstreaked rump (for at least 1/4) diagnostic (many birds require examination at close range to see streaks). 'Frosty' bird with large unstreaked rump unquestionably hoary. (2) Likewise, unstreaked undertail coverts, including the longest, are diagnostic of hoary. (3) Suggestive but not conclusive: frosty appearance (Griscom reports on albinistic *C. flammea*), reduced and crisp streaks on sides (hoary's so variable that these are not diagnostic). (4) Small 'pushed in' bill suggestive but many hoary's lack this. Finally, some birds are simply unidentifiable, perhaps even in the hand. Gabrielson and Lincoln (Birds of Alaska) report many specimens indicating hybridization or introgression when the ranges of hoary/common overlap.

Hoary Redpoll

Anderson 1907
p 358

13. (527a). *Acanthis hornemanni exilipis* (Coues). Hoary Redpoll.
"South in winter, occasionally to the northern U. S. Occasionally from Mass., Ill., Maine, and Mich." (Bailey, Birds West. N. A., p. 318). The species was reported from Linn county as a rare winter visitant by G. H. Berry, but no specimens have been preserved.] 1

Genus ACANTHIS Bechstein.

Anderson 1907
pp 311-312

230. (528). *Acanthis linaria* (Linn.). Redpoll.

The Common Redpoll or Redpoll Linnet is a somewhat irregular but abundant winter visitor. Some winters flocks of hundreds are seen, and during other seasons they will be rare. In southern Iowa the species is rarely seen, but in northern Iowa they appear nearly every winter, often visiting towns. Its principal food is the seed of ragweeds and various large weeds which project through the snow. Flocks alight upon these in large numbers, picking off the seeds which cling to the stalks as well as those which fall upon the snow. It frequently happens that only two or three rosy-pink males are found in a flock of two or three hundred specimens. The Redpolls are generally found from December until March, but Dr. C. C. Smith has noted them as early as Dec. 3 and as late as April 5 in Winneshiek county.

231. (528b). *Acanthis linaria rostrata* (Coues). Greater Redpoll.

"A northern species, rarely seen in the U. S. The only instance of its capture within the Mississippi Valley is the record of a specimen taken Nov. 2, 1878, at Chicago, Ill., by Mr. H. K. Coale" (Cooke, Bird Migr. in Miss. Val., 1884-85, p. 182).

"Mr. J. H. Brown, Iowa City, Iowa, writes: "I shot three Greater Redpolls on Jan. 11, and one the 13th inst. They were undoubtedly of the variety *Acanthis linaria rostrata* Coues. I have never seen mention of this variety occurring in the state before" (Iowa Orn., ii, 2, 1896, p. 50).