

House Finch

12 Apr 1985

Burlington, Des Moines Co., IA

\*J. Fuller

compared with Purple Finch; IBL 55:70; 56:44

Record Number: 85-11

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Jim Fuller

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 55:70

Records Committee: IBL 56:44

VOTE: 7-III

III, While description is somewhat lacking in detail (back, wing, rump color, streaking?), I believe what is given does describe the male house finch.

III, Observer experienced.

85-11

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

SPECIES: House Finch  
DATE SEEN: 12 April 1985  
SITE OF OBSERVATION: Des Moines County  
OBSERVERS: Jim Fuller  
DATE OF REVIEW: October 1985  
METHOD OF REVIEW: Committee mail vote  
CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III

COMMENTS: The description was adequate for identification, although a little more detail regarding coloration in the back, wing, and rump areas would have been desirable. The extent of streaking is also important in identifying this species.

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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.



What species? HOUSE FINCH How many? 1 (MALE)  
 Location? DR. HARVEY EASTBURN HOME - 3 MILES N. OF BURLINGTON  
 Type of habitat? YARD - BUT DEEP WOODS EDGE  
 When? date(s): 12 APRIL time: 9:20 AM 9:21 AM  
11:50 AM to 11:52 AM  
 Who? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL, IOWA CITY  
 others with you: JANE FULLER, CHARLES FULLER  
 others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THIS BIRD WAS NOT AS GOOD, NEARLY SO LONG, OR AT AS CLOSE A DISTANCE AS THE FEMALE AT MY HOME (ALSO DOCUMENTED) THE MOST STRIKING FEATURE WAS THE RED-RED COLOR RATHER THAN PURPLE-RED OF NEARBY MALE PURPLE FINCHES. ANOTHER OBVIOUS DIFFERENCE - THE RED ENDED ABRUPTLY ON UPPER CHEST. OTHER FEATURES NOTED WERE (1) GENERAL SIZE + SHAPE SAME AS PURPLE FINCHES (2) A DARK BROWN LINE THROUGH THE EYE + SEPARATING TWO RED PATCHES (3) SUBTLE RED BLUSH ON MOSTLY WHITE BELLY. THE COLOR ON THE PURPLE FINCHES WAS MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE ON BACK + BELLY

Similar species and how eliminated: MALE PURPLE FINCH - THE BIRD IN QUESTION HAD A DIFFERENT RED COLOR WHICH WAS LESS EXTENSIVE THAN THE PURPLE FINCH'S

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

CLEAR SKIES. VIEWED AT 50-75 FEET WITH

9X36 BUSHNELL BINOCULARS

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

HAVE SEEN IN EAST + WEST U.S. SEVERAL TIMES

References and persons consulted before writing description:

PETERSON

How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATE this form completed? 8 HOURS

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240