

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/22/00

Pine Grosbeak

22 Dec 1996

Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co., IA

*Wolfgang Oesterreich

IBL 67: 55, 63, 82

Record Number: 96-76

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Wolfgang Oesterreich, 1801 Coolidge Dr., Ames 50010-5134

[6/15/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 67:55, 63

Records Committee: IBL 67:82

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, OK for female Pine Grosbeak. Undulating flight also supportive.

Unusual Bird Report Form for Christmas Bird Counts

CBC Name (not bird club name): Saylorville Lake, Iowa CBC Date: 22 DEC 96

Species (include number, age, sex etc. as appropriate): female Pine Grosbeak

Observer: Wolfgang Oesterreich Other observers who saw bird: Kevin Healy

Description (Describe size, color and pattern above and below, head, bill, tail, wings etc. as needed. Use this space for a drawing if helpful. Include photos if available.):

Large (about size of Rose-breasted Grosbeak) gray finch with yellow-green coloration on the upper part of the head down to the back. The wings were dark with 1 noticeable white wing bar and the hint of another below it. The tail appeared to be dark, but from our angle, we couldn't see it very well. Also didn't see the yellow-green coloration on the rump (due to a tree branch). The bill was black with a slight down curve to it. The eyes were dark.

Location: woods at end
of NW 100th St @ Big Creek Lake
T81N R25W NE 1/4 SEC 21

Sounds made, if any: none made

Conditions of observation (Time of day, weather, duration of observation, distance to bird, optics used, etc.):

ca. 0750 am; overcast & cold (~low 20's °F), wind not noticeable in the woods; observed 3-5 minutes; ca. 20' to bird; 10x42 binocs

Behavior and Habitat (What was the bird doing while you watched it? What habitat was it in?):

She was perched at the top of a deciduous tree (locust?) in a small wooded area, dominated by deciduous trees. Some conifers were present. Kevin stated that when he first saw the bird it flew like a woodpecker (undulating) and landed in the tree.

Similar Species (What similar species might be in your area in winter? How did you eliminate them from consideration?):

coloration and size eliminated the other finches.
Too large and wrong coloration for Goldfinches.
Coloration, bill shape, size not like crossbills.