

Hoary Redpoll
23 Dec 1995
Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery, Dickinson Co., IA
*Lee A. Schoenewe
IBL 66:60, 97

Record Number: 95-75
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Lee A. Schoenewe, 518 W. 4th St., Spencer 51301 [*6/7/96]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:60
Records Committee: IBL 66:97

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Lack of dark streaks on undertail coverts diagnostic.

A-D, Perhaps a dubious species, but that's for the AOU to sort out. Adequately described with side-by-side comparison with Common's, expected location, and part of an apparent invasion.

A-D, Unstreaked undertail coverts sound good although I am a bit hesitant on this feature at 20 yards. Assuming that the bird was seen well, all features are consistent with Hoary Redpoll.

A-D, Lack of streaks or one faint streak on under tail coverts, if seen well (BIG IF) is said to be best field mark. In an invasion year, I am willing to accept a Hoary if seen as well as this bird, realizing that all such birds are subject to some degree of error in identification.

A-D, Key marks seen. Rump and undertail coverts unstreaked -- along with overall paleness of bird. Also winter with other probably to be confirmed sightings.

95-75

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species How many? HOARY REDPOLL 1
Location? SPIRIT LAKE FISH HATCHERY
Type of habitat? OPEN AREA ALONG SPILLWAY BETWEEN SPIRIT LAKE & E. OKOBOWI LAKE
When? date(s): 12/23/95 Time: . 11:40 AM
Who? your name and address
LEE A. SCHOENEWE 518 W. 4th ST. SPENCER, IA. 51301
Others with you NONE

Others before and after you HAROLD WHITE *
Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also describe voice and behavior. A FLOCK OF NOISY FINCHES (APPROX. 20) LANDED ON A PATCH OF SANDY GRAVEL JUST AHEAD OF ME. RED SKULL CAPS, DARK STREAKING AND PINK WASH ON THE BREASTS OF SOME BIRDS IDENTIFIED THEM AS COMMON REDPOLLS. AS I SCANNED THE FLOCK, ONE BIRD DREW MY ATTENTION AS NOTICEABLY PALER THAN THE OTHERS. IT WAS FACING AWAY FROM ME AND ACTIVELY FORAGING. THE BIRD HAD A WHITE, UNSTREAKED RUMP PATCH AND THE UNDERTAIL COVERTS HAD NO STREAKS. THE BELLY WAS WHITE W/ LIGHT STREAKS ON THE SIDES. THE FEATHERS ON THE HEAD AND BACK HAD A PALE CAST OF GRAY. I DID NOT GET A LOOK AT THE BILL SHAPE, CAP OR UPPER BREAST.

Similar species and how eliminated:
COMMON REDPOLLS BY CLOSE COMPARISON

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: MIDDAY SUN, 20 YARDS (PACED), 8X40 BINOCULARS

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:
COMMON REDPOLLS BOTH AT FEEDERS AND IN THE FIELD

References and persons consulted before writing description:
I HAD READ ARTICLE ON IDENTIFYING REDPOLLS IN DEC. BIRDING MAGAZINE
How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATELY
this form completed? 3 DAYS

Mail original form to field editor for this season.

* HAROLD WHITE AND I WENT BACK TO THE SITE ABOUT 1:20 PM. A FLOCK OF AT LEAST 50 REDPOLLS WERE FORAGING IN WEEDS ALONG THE RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY, BUT THE ONLY CLOSE LOOK WE HAD WAS OF 12 COMMON REDPOLLS THAT LANDED ON THE SAME PATCH OF GRAVEL WHERE I HAD SEEN THE GROUP IN THE MORNING.