

Black-headed Grosbeak

Record Number: 94-28

1 Oct 1994

Classification: A-D

near Marquette, Clayton Co., IA

*Francis Moore

IBL 65:18; 65:82

DOCUMENTATION

Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703 [6/26/95*]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 65:18

Records Committee: IBL 65:82

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Yellow underwings diagnostic.

A-D, Yellow underwing linings, cinnamon wash, and unstreaked breast eliminate Rose-breasted.

A-D, This description of an immature male Black-headed Grosbeak is too perfect to be true. Did you really not look at a book for 2 days? Underwing color is best mark.

A-D, Detailed description, including underwing linings, a key indicator, indicates this species.

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

94-28

What species? Black-headed Grosbeak How many? 1 imm. ♂Location? Home of Pat Heidenreich near Marquet, Clayton Co., IAType of habitat? Second growth overgrown ditch in broken forested area.When? date(s): October 1, 1994 time: 1:12 p.m. to 1:23 p.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Pat Heidenreich and others at Iowa Audubon Council meetingothers before or after you: None that I know of

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.

This bird had a large heavy grosbeak type bill with blackish upper mandible and lighter grayish lower mandible. There was a large blackish auricular patch which included the eye. Below this was a white mustache mark and above it was a white superciliary stripe. The top of the head had a buff colored central stripe that ran from the front of the head to the nape. This was bordered by a blackish stripe on each side down to the superciliary stripe. The back was a dark brownish color with lighter brown feather edging giving a scalloped effect. The tail was a blackish brown color. The wings were also blackish brown with large white spots on the tips of the tertials and a very prominent white wing bar showing on the median wing coverts and a slightly smaller but also prominent second wing bar showing on the greater wing coverts. There was also a large white square shaped bar on the base of the outer ~~primary~~ primaries on the folded wing. The breast was a deep buff color with a cinnamon wash at mid breast. There were no streaks on the breast from the throat down to the lower belly. There were a few indistinct streaks on the flanks. The underwing linings were a yellow color. The belly was a light buff color with white under tail coverts. The legs were black.

Similar species and how eliminated: Immature Rose-breasted would have a streaked breast this bird did not. Immature Rose-breasted would also have a pinkish breast with reddish underwing linings, this bird was buff with cinnamon wash on breast and yellow underwing linings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Bright, sunny. Seen from about 30 feet to 100 yards using 10x40 binoculars.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen a few in SE ArizonaReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 10 min. this form completed? 2 days

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