

Boreal Chickadee
17 Nov 1976
Des Moines, Polk Co., IA
*W. H. Brown, others
to 7 Mar 1977; Brown 1976, IBL 46:114, 47:3,7,20,60

Record Number: 81-GN
Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATION

Woodward H. Brown, 17 Nov 1976

REFERENCES

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 47:3, 7.
Field Reports: IBL 46:114, 47:20, 60.
Brown, W.H. 1976. Boreal Chickadee in Des Moines. IBL 47:117.
Records Committee: IBL 64:70

PHOTOGRAPH

N. S. Halmi, 24 Nov 1976, P-0006

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Tom Kent to Records Committee, 13 Sep 1993

VOTE (1981): 2-I, 2-II, 2-III, 1-IV

II, If photo available would be I:

III, Amazing -- only one documentation and no published photos. Have written Halmi for photos. to

I.

I, Are photos available.

II, Can we get photos? Details convincing.

I, Photographed -- seen by many obs. Obs. personally.

III, Feeder bird. Documented by Woody Brown, in Warters home - - seen by Nick Halmi. Halmi (1975) notes existence of a picture. Can we get to upgrade this record?

IV, Well documented occurrence -- seen by m. ob. (including WRS). However, I suspect that voice must be heard to clinch identification. Plumage characters definitely indicates Boreal.

REVOTE (1993): 7 A-P

A-P, I also saw this bird several times.

81-GW

13 September 1993

To: IOU Records Committee

From: Tom Kent

Re: Request for reconsideration of record

Record: 81-GN Boreal Chickadee

Reason for request: Photos not previously reviewed.

Comment: This important record should be classified as A-P.



Boreal Chickadee P-0006
Des Moines, Polk Co.
24 Nov 1976 N. S. Halmi

81-GE

Boreal Chickadee

81-GN

Halmi, N. S. 1976. Field reports. Iowa Bird Life 46:111-116

Titmice through Wrens. The season's passerine prize goes to Iowa's second Boreal Chickadee, a lucky bird which blundered into Mrs. Warters' avian Land of Cockaigne at Des Moines on November 16 and, predictably, settled down for the duration to wax fat on suet and peanuts (see detailed note by Woody Brown). A black-and-white closeup of this waif from the north was published in the November 25 issue of the *Des Moines Register*; color photos were taken on November 24 (NH). The reports received give no clear picture of the *Tufted Titmouse's status.

Brown, W. H. 1976. Boreal Chickadee in Des Moines. Iowa Bird Life 47:117

Boreal Chickadee in Des Moines -- Mrs. Lurene Warters of Des Moines called the morning of November 17 to say there was what "had to be" a Brown-headed Chickadee (Peterson's name) feeding in her yard. That afternoon Dick Mooney and I went to Mrs. Warters' home, 5115 Woodland Ave., and after a few minutes wait saw a Boreal Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus*) at distances as close as 10 feet. The bird repeatedly fed on suet and peanuts, going from one feeder to another. The brown cap and back and reddish flanks made identification certain. Mrs. Warters has numerous feeders and there are many birds to be seen throughout the year. During our 40-minute visit we saw also Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White and Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hairy and Downy Woodpecker, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Junco and Cedar Waxwing. The Boreal Chickadee appears to be the second published Iowa record. The bird is still present on December 6. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines.

Silcock, W. R. 1977. Christmas count. Iowa Bird Life 47:3-14

p 3 3. Boreal Chickadee: At a Des Moines feeder, also seen by many. This is the second Iowa CBC record, the first being in 1966 at a Dubuque feeder, and third state record.

p 7 Details of unusual observations: Boreal Chickadee at feeder since mid-November. Has been seen and photographed by many since that time.

Halmi, N. S. 1977. Field reports. Iowa Bird Life 47:18-22

Titmice through Waxwings. The Boreal Chickadee in Des Moines has stayed through the season. A further check of the literature reveals that it is the third record for Iowa. There are sporadic reports of a few Red-breasted Nuthatches;

Halmi, N. S. 1977. Field reports. Iowa Bird Life 47:56-63

Titmice through Thrushes. Des Moines' famous Boreal Chickadee was last seen on March 7 (WB). At RRR, Red-breasted Nuthatches stayed into April (GB); several were seen in HHP May 4-5 (RD). The Pygmy Nuthatch left its haunt of many months in Des Moines on April 15 (WB). Brown Creepers have been at a

81-GN
③

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Boreal Chickadee (Parus hudsonicus) 2. Number: 1
3. Location Des Moines, IA
4. Date: 17 Nov. 1976 5. Time Bird seen: 15:45 to 16:15
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
- Similar in size and shape to other chickadees, but brown cap and back, and reddish marking on flanks were conspicuous
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: frequent trips to suet feeders and to peanut feeder in same manner as the Black-capped which were present at the same time
9. Habitat - general: urban, residential
specific: large back yard with both evergreen and deciduous trees and large stand of yew adjacent to feeders
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
- Superficially similar to any of the chickadees
11. Distance (how measured)? 10-12 ft.
12. Optical equipment: 7x35, 8x40 bin. Too close to focus at times
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Bright day
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Boreal seen once previously, all other sp except Gray-headed seen at one time
15. Other observers: or another
Practically all birders in the area plus Dr. Helmi from Iowa C.
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Mrs. Lurene, in whose yard the bird has been seen, called me to say the bird was there. Dick Mooney and I checked various guides to know what to look for and went to the yard. The bird appeared in a very few minutes and made repeated trips to the feeders during our stay. We have both been back there a number of times.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Mary Ann ... Address: 432 Torawanda Dr. Des Moines
Signature
Date: 6 Nov 1976 City, State: Des Moines IA 50312

(over)