

Hoary Redpoll

3 Feb 1996

south of Ames, Story Co., IA

*Jeanne C. Edwards

to 4 Feb; IBL 66:60, 67:83

Record Number: 96-05

Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Jeanne C. Edwards, 2308 State Ave., RR 3, Ames [4/6/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:60

Records Committee: IBL 67:83

VOTE: 4 A-D, 3 NA

A-D, (exilipes adult winter)

NA, Very likely correct but without a description of the undertail coverts I am hesitant to accept the record. From everything I have read, the virtual absence of streaking on the undertail coverts is the most reliable field mark.

NA, The field marks noted were a very white overall appearance and white rump. This was most likely a Hoary, but I think we need more detail -- especially undertail coverts, but also bill, coloration of scapulars, and more detail on streaking in or near rump.

NA, Overall whitish appearance needs more description of exactly how much lighter or whiter the bird was in the undertail coverts. What was the bill size and shape? How many and how wide was the streaking on the sides or flanks. Paler pink on breast, was it really pink or just wash or almost absent? Just too much detail left out for this hard to identify species.

A-D, Given invasion of this species, description is adequate for ID as Hoary, even though no comment on bill or specifics on lack of streaking or rump and undertail coverts.

REVOTE: 5 NA, 2 A-D

NA, The description is suggestive of Hoary Redpoll, but more complete details of the undertail coverts, rump, and bill are needed to rule out Common Redpoll.

A-D, Exilipes adult winter. The bill and undertail coverts were not described. However, I feel the overall white color as compared to the 7-8 other redpolls present, and that I see no detractors in the description given is sufficient evidence to support Hoary Redpoll in this invasion year.

NA, This was most likely a correct identification, but not enough details are presented to separate it from Common Redpoll. There is no mention of the undertail coverts, bill and forehead, or buffiness or absence thereof on the face.

NA, Still maintain that more detail is needed to archive this record as accepted. One A-D vote mentions the "invasion of this species." Guess I'm not totally convinced that there was an invasion of Hoaries, just more redpolls in general combined with a new article in "Birding" on identification. My hunch is that the next winter we get a number of redpolls, some will be

reported as Hoaries. Maybe they have been here all along and we are just getting better at recognizing them. Unless a determination is made that they are regular, however, identifying details need to be described.

NA, As before: close but not enough to be sure.

NA, Too much detail left out on the description of bill, under tail coverts, upper tail coverts. The description of the paler coloration of this bird is not bad but on this rare species we need to have more description of other field marks to make it beyond reasonable doubt.

A-D, Given the strong evidence (proof?) of an invasion (double the total number of records for this species in Iowa), I believe the description is adequate for Hoary Redpoll. If the description had been the only report of the species for the year, I would reject it. The assumption I am making is no different than that which does not require documentation of expected species; are all Orange-crowned and Tennessee Warblers reported identified correctly?

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Hoary Redpoll

Number: one

Location: south of Ames (2308 State Ave RR 3)

Habitat: Bushes, deciduous trees, pines, firs, grass, BRUSH PILES in side yard
lee side of house. Feeding with pine siskins, house finch, goldfinch
at finch feeder filled with niger seed + sunflower hearts

Date:

Time: 2 days, late afternoon (around 3:30) February 3 + 4, 1946

Observer: Jeanne C. Edwards

Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird(s): Very "white" overall in color compared to 7-8 other redpolls feeding on same feeder. Appeared to have been "dusted" with powdered sika underparts mostly white — and also white rump. Not as much streaking on sides as other redpolls nearby. Paler pink on breast. Also red cap not as bright. (Stood out from rest of birds (redpolls) as "different" + caught my eye immediately as needing separate identification, + as new to me, + as needing to be checked out in all my reference books.)

Similar species and how eliminated: Common Redpoll is similar. But just by looking at the two side by side, the difference overall was very apparent. Looked as tho dusted in white powder, much more white area (eg. rump + breast + undertail). Not as much streaking. Smaller red cap.

Viewing conditions and equipment: on BIRD FEEDER, 6 feet from window, lee side of h
BY EYE, BY BINOCULAR — light snow falling

Previous experience with species:

none

— finch feeder, holding niger seeds + sunflower hearts

References consulted: Steve Dinsmore; GOLDEN GUIDE TO FIELD I.D. BIRDS of N. Ameri
+ National Geographic Field Guide to " " " "
+ Audubon Society " " " " " "

How long before field notes made:

2-3 days after sighting

How long before this form completed:

today is March 19 → approx. 1 month