

House Finch  
26 Jun 1982  
Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA  
\*#Don Johnson  
IBL 52:94; 53:27, 36, P-0084

Record Number: 82-27  
Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATION

Don G. Johnson

LETTER

Don Johnson to Tom Kent, 4 March 1983

PHOTOGRAPH

Don Johnson, P-0084 (IBL 52:94)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 52:94; 53:27

Records Committee: IBL 53:36

Photograph: IBL 52:94 (P-0084)

VOTE: 7-I-P

I-P, Good photos.

I-P, doc. illegible.

I-P, Good photos.

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

by the Records Committee  
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: House finch

DATE SEEN: 26 July 1982

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA

OBSERVERS: Don and Elaine Johnson

DATE OF REVIEW: 4 October 1982

METHOD OF REVIEW: mail vote

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: I-P

COMMENTS: Photographs absolutely diagnostic.  
Second Iowa record.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

HOUSE FINCH VISITS OTTUMWA, IOWA

82-27

During the early afternoon of June 26, 1982 my wife Elaine saw a gold finch at a thistle feeder located near our house at 81 Woodshire Drive. The back yard is small with a mature woods of hickory and oak surrounding it, approx 15 acres. Moments later she called to me, "There's a purple finch on the thistle feeder." "No, I don't think so!" I looked at the bird and said "It's a House Finch." He saw a large number of House Finches in January 1982 <sup>in California</sup> and were familiar with the bird. We did observe the bird with binoculars and had ample time to refer to Robbins' "Birds of N.A." and Peterson's "Field Guide to Eastern Birds."

We decided that the bird might return to the sunflower seed feeder. Located near the thistle feeder the platform feeder is covered with a home made trap. A sliding door is operated by a line to a kitchen window. So we watched for the finch.

The bird did come to the sunflower seed feeder at about 5:00 PM, it entered the trap and was captured. The bird was banded, and photographed. We took 35mm color slides and 8mm color movies.

We were anxious to share our fun with Charles and Darlene Cypres. They were not at home so we drove to Pioneer Ridge Conservation Park south of Ottumwa but could not find them. So we returned home and at 7:00 PM we released the bird. We have not observed the bird since that day.

Don S. Johnson

81 Woodshire Dr  
Ottumwa IA 52501

March 4, 1983

82-27

Dear Tom,

I recently prepared year-end banding schedules for 1982 for the banding lab. The record for the House Finch was entered on June 26. I recalled that Gladys Black's article in the Des Moines Register said July 26 and the Records Committee report shows July 26.

Yesterday I ran across my pencil notes concerning the encounter with the Finch and saw the date of June 26. I suppose I may have used July instead of June when I wrote to you - but I wanted you to know that the banding record in Laurel Maryland will say June 26 for that band number.

I hope I haven't confused you. We plan to attend the IOU meeting Apr 23<sup>rd</sup>; 24<sup>th</sup> - Hope to see you there!

Yours Truly

Don Sharpe

House Finch banded in Ottumwa -

On the afternoon of June 26, 1987 my wife Elaine saw a gold finch at a thistle feeder located north of our house at 81 Woodshire Drive in Ottumwa.

A moment later she called to me "I saw a purple finch on the thistle feeder. No - it's a red-poll - no - I don't think so. I looked at the bird and said "It's a House Finch."

We observed the with binoculars and using Robbins "Birds of America"; Petersons Eastern Field Guide confirmed that the bird was a House Finch.

We decided that the bird might return to the sunflower seed feeder so we prepared the trap - a home made box trap <sup>- mounted on a seed platform</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>is</sup> a sliding door operated by ~~us~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~bird~~ <sup>bird</sup>.

a string to a kitchen window.

At About 5:00 P.M. The bird did come  
to the two seed feeders - ~~Entered~~<sup>Entered</sup>  
the trap and was captured.

The bird was banded and photographed -  
color 35 mm slide & 8 mm movies

We were anxious to share our  
fun with Chas - Darlene Ayres. He  
drove to Pioneer Ridge Conserva-  
tion Park so a lot - but could not  
find them - So we returned home  
at 7:00 and released the bird. We  
have not observed the bird since that  
day.