

Bohemian Waxwing

OK
I saw the bird on 1 February 1976 near the southwest corner of the Physics Building on the University of Iowa Campus.

I first saw the bird as I was watching a flock of 200-300 cedar waxwings as they were ground feeding. Its large size and large crest made the bird stand out. I observed with 8X binoculars at a distance of 20 feet. Three areas of whiteness in each folded wing and generally more uniform coloration on anterior and posterior portions of the body were also seen. The bird flew up into a tree so that I was able to observe the reddish undertail covert area. Observation time was about three minutes.

I proceeded to contact other birders and upon returning to the Physics Building area found the bird (or one not detectably different) in a tree. I again observed the redness undertail and the white patches in the wings. Additionally a uniformly gray-brown breast with no trace of yellow on the belly, redness in the facial area, size larger than cedars in the same field of view, and folded wing tips extending more nearly to the tip of the tail (in comparison to the cedars) were observed.

I had not previously observed a Bohemian waxwing.

As far as I know the bird was not seen again.

Rich DeCoster

10 Feb. 1976

(copied from notes of 2/1/76)