

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: PINE GROSSBEAK

Number Seen: 1

Location: Lamoni, Iowa

Date: 11/08/84 9:50AM to 10:05AM

Habitat: A small wood lot with good undergrowth. Most of the larger trees have fallen over. Most of the small bushes have berries.

Observed by: Jeffrey R. Livingston 203 east third Lamoni, Iowa

Also seen by Joe Breshears who is providing his own documentation form <sup>50140</sup>

Viewing conditions: Slightly overcast with the sun coming through periodically. The sun was behind me. The temperature was approximately 65 degrees. There was no wind. The bird was about 30 feet away (I paced off a similar distance).

Optical equipment: 7x50mm binoculars

Previous experience with this bird: I saw this species while out in Colorado this summer (1984)

References consulted while observing: FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS by Roger Tory Peterson (1980)

After: BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA by Robbins  
AUDUBON MASTER GUIDE TO BIRDING vol 3

Field notes made: while observing This form: 1 hour later

Description: see next page  
similar species and how eliminated: see next page

DESCRIPTION: While birding in a small wood lot, I noticed an unusual or different song above me in a tree. I located the robin sized bird about 50 feet from the ground. I immediately noticed the short heavy bill and the prominent wing bars. The bird was silouetted against the sky and difficult to see. After about three minutes the bird flew to another tree, this time about 20 feet from the ground. I moved to get the sun behind me and found the bird about 30 feet away. The bird was eating berries from the tree. In the better light I noticed the rust on the back of the head and rump. The wings were black with white bars, the tail was black, short and slightly notched. The throat, breast and belly were a plain gray. The back was gray with slight streaking. The undertail coverts were the same gray as the breast. The bill and legs were black. The eye was dark with no eye ring.

The bird, overall, was Robin sized but plump, had a short, thick bill and short, slightly notched tail. It had prominent white wing bars, the body was plain gray.

#### SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW ELIMINATED:

Upon first seeing the bird and noticing the bill, I thought of an Evening Grossbeak, but this bird had a dark bill not a yellow-green one. The body was definitely gray not yellowish. When I saw it closer and in better light, I noticed the rust on the head and rump. This eliminated the Evening Grossbeak. The bird had no crest or prominent eye markings as do the Waxwings. The under tail coverts were gray. The waxwings are rusty. The White-winged Crossbill is lots smaller and has red on the breast and throat.