

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? House Finch How many? 9Location? Feeders at 814 Woodlawn Ave. Muscatine, Ia.Type of habitat? Yard, shrubs, small wooded creek valleyWhen? date(s): Nov. 30 - Dec. 29, 1986 ^{including Dec 20} time: on & off to All day, every day.Who? your name and address: Timothy L. Dwyer, 814 Woodlawn Ave. Muscatine Ia.others with you: Gerald White, Joseph Morrissey - Muscatine Dec 20others before or after you: Jim Fuller - Iowa City

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Small red & brown, & brown finches at feeders. Finch-like bill on birds smaller & slimmer than Purple finches in direct comparison. Larger than Pine Siskins. Females are brown & heavily streaked with brown below with no obvious head pattern. Males are pale to bright red on head, breast & rump, heavily streaked with brown below. Tail of both sexes slimmer & less notched than Purple Finch. The House Finches prefer Safflower seed but also eat shelled sunflower seed. They utilize heated waterer. Voice not heard. Five males seen at one time, four females seen at one time. One male and one female appear to be a mated pair and visit the feeders separate from other House Finches.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Too slim & red for Purple Finch. Females with no real face pattern, tail less notched. Males streaked with brown below, also females.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
ON Dec. 20, 1986 overcast skies, 6 to 20 feet, naked eye & 8x40 BinocularsPrevious experience with species and similar ones: I lived in Boulder Colo. where they are abundant.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? None this form completed? 9 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240