

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

Accepted
by editor

1. Species PINE GROSBEEK 2. Number ONE
 3. Location MARK SAND PRARIE, BLACK HAWK COUNTY, IOWA
 4. Date: DECEMBER 27, 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: 3:00 to 3:15 PM
 6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
A CARDINAL SIZED BIRD, WITH A DARK HEAVY BEAK AND A SMOOTH HEAD. THE BIRD WAS OBSERVED PERCHING ON THE BRANCH OF A DECIDUOUS TREE. THE HEAD, NECK AND BREAST WERE ROSY-PINK. THERE WAS A DISTINCT GREY BAND BENEATH THE FOLDED WINGS. THERE WERE ALSO WHITE WING BARS, ALTHOUGH THESE WERE NOT AS PROMINENT AS SHOWN IN MOST ILLUSTRATIONS
 7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD
 8. Description of behavior: THE BIRD WAS VERY SHY. IT WAS FLUSHED FROM A COVE OF SMALL CEDARS, BUT FLEW BACK IN UPON OBSERVING ME. SUBSEQUENTLY, IT WAS OBSERVED ON THE ONE DECIDUOUS TREE GROWING WITH THE CEDARS BUT AGAIN, UPON BEING DISCOVERED, IT RETURNED TO THE CEDARS.
 9. Habitat - general: A ROW OF CEDAR TREES PLANTED AS A WINDBREAK AT THE EDGE OF A NATURAL PRARIE.
specific: LARGE NUMBER OF EVERGREENS APPROX 1/2 MILE
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: WHILE A FEMALE PURPLE FINCH WAS SEEN IN THE SAME LOCATION, THIS WAS NOT A MALE PURPLE FINCH, BECAUSE OF ITS LARGER SIZE, THE GREY SIDES AND ITS RELUCTANCE TO LEAVE THE TREES.
 11. Distance (how measured)? 30-40 FT. (MEMORY)
 12. Optical equipment: J.C. PENNEY - 10 X 50 BINOCULAR
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): MOSTLY SUNNY, SUN SHINING. APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS BEFORE SUNSET. SUN ABOVE, BEHIND OBSERVER
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: NO EXPERIENCE WITH PINE GROSBEEK. OBSERVATION OF PURPLE FINCHES AT FEEDERS IN PREVIOUS WEEKS.
 15. Other observers: FRANCIS MOORE
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? YES
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: ~~NONE KNOWN~~ FRANCIS MOORE
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: THE GOLDEN FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA WAS CONSULTED BETWEEN FIRST, FLEETING GLIMPSE AND THE SUBSEQUENT OBSERVATION OF PERCHED BIRD. THIS HEIGHTENED MY CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BIRD, AND, I FEEL; MADE MY IDENTIFICATION MORE CERTAIN
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? EIGHT DAYS
- Signature: Milo Machan Address: 1924 CAMPUS ST
- Date: JANUARY 4, 1981 City, State: CEDAR FALLS IA 50613