

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Pine Grosbeak How many? 1
 Location? Denver, at feeder of Robert Wylder, Bremer Co.
 Type of habitat? window feeder of Robert Wylder
 When? date(s): Feb 12, 1984 time: 2:35 to 2:38 P.M.
 Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowa
 others with you: Mark Proescholdt
 others before or after you: Bob Myers, Francis Moore before us

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.

The large plump-bodied bird (larger than an Evening Grosbeak) showed a grayish body with russet crown and nape, and a dark, stubby, curved bill as it landed on the window feeder 5 or 6 feet from us. The dark eye and dark wings with two distinct wing bars, and gray breast and underparts were as far back as we could see, as the bird was partially hidden at the edge of the window. It was gobbling sunflower hearts rapidly, + we could see them descend to its crop. It fed 3 minutes before flying off. We concluded this was a 1st year male Pine Grosbeak - the same coloration as the only other one we have ever seen (in our yard one year)

Similar species and how eliminated: I don't think there is a similar species like the russet coloration

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

foggy day, 5 or 6 feet from us just outside window - so close we needed no binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen a Pine Grosbeak once before

References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson's new guide, new guide by Robbins, et al, National Geographic guide

How long before field notes made? at once this form completed? Feb 12, 1984