

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Pine Grosbeak 2. Number 1
3. Location State Center, Marshall Co., Iowa
4. Date: 8 Mar 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 7⁵⁵ to 8⁰⁰ Am

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):

Cardinal sized bird with smooth head, grosbeak shape and bill. Crown, nape, throat, breast, upper abdomen rusty-red with some gray extending from shoulder onto back. Beak moderately thick (intermediate between Evening Grosbeak and Crossbill) and black. Black extended from beak through the eye. Wings, back, tail and lower abdomen gray. Two white but not contrasty wing bars.

7. Description of voice, if heard: NA

8. Description of behavior: Eating seeds at bird feeder

9. Habitat - general: residential

specific: Home of Jim and Dorothy Marsh, State Center

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Thick, uncrossed bill and chunky shape eliminate white-winged Crossbill.

11. Distance (how measured)? 50-5+ (est)

12. Optical equipment:
8x40 Leitz Telescopes

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Sunny. We were looking directly north.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Seen in Minnesota, Colorado and Iowa

15. Other observers:
Thomas Shires, Michael Newton, Calvin and Bernice Knight

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
Maisha, Carl Kutz (took photos)

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
none

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
3 1/2 hours

Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St

Date: 3/8/81 City, State: Iowa City IA