

What species? Pine Grosbeak How many? 2

Location? Backyard feeder in the town of Decorah

Type of Habitat? Lawns, shrubs, trees

When? date(s): March 27 and 28, 1989 time: Morning to _____

Who? your name and address: Delores and Arnold Rohm, 713 Washington, Decorah, IA

Others with you: _____

Others before or after you: None that are known

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Noticed a larger, very red bird at the feeder, about the size of a robin. It had white wing bars and dark wings. It was soon joined by another bird with dull greenish-gray colored feathers, also with dark wings and whitish wingbars. Both stuffed themselves greedily with sunflowers, and used their large, heavy bills to eat them. The birds were larger than the purple finches which were also trying to use the feeder and the female was not striped like a purple finch female. The bills were definitely not crossbills but more like that of evening grosbeaks which had visited the feeder other years. The red head, breast and back of the male clearly indicated it was not an evening grosbeak, nor was the female wings like that of the evening grosbeak. The red color was a different shade than the little purple finches.

Similar species; how eliminated:

See above. Have seen evening grosbeaks many times-both males and females. Purple finches regular feeders. Had seen red crossbills at Decorah previous winter.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
If yes, explain:

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

About 25 feet from window to feeder, both days sunny, used 7X35 W.A. binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Life Bird

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson' Field Guide

How long before field notes made? Same Day this form completed? 5/31/89

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).