

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Pine Grosbeak  
How Many?1 imm.(probably a female)  
Location?State Forest Nursery, Ames

Habitat?large pine planting

Date?24 Aug 1986  
Time?10:00 A.M.-approximately(seen for less than a minute)  
Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:Eric Munson, Ames

Description of bird:We were playing a Screech Owl tape to attract passerines when we heard a loud "chee-ee" and saw the bird land in the top of a nearby tree. Presumably, the bird was responding to the owl tape. The bird was about robin-sized with a long tail and a heavy bill. The underparts were grayish with some pronounced light streaking on the breast. The back was grayish and slightly darker than the underparts. The wings were dark brown with two white bars on each wing. The head was not seen well, but appeared to have some rust color on it. The tail was dark and notched at the tip. The legs were dark. The streaked underparts puzzled me at first because most field guides show that Pine Grosbeaks have unstreaked underparts. However, I did a bit of reading and found that some juvenile Pine Grosbeaks, particularly females, have some streaking on the underparts. Every other mark on this bird fits with a Pine Grosbeak.

Similar species and how eliminated:The large size, two white wing bars, and heavy bill should eliminate Purple Finch, House Finch, and both crossbills. A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was eliminated by its light-colored bill, shorter tail, facial pattern, and buffy underparts. The call note also eliminates Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were o.k. with the sun behind us, although we had only a brief look at the bird. Estimated viewing distance was 30-35 feet. I used Nikon 8 x 23 binoculars and a Bausch and Lomb 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen only two other Pine Grosbeaks in Iowa.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America and A.C. Bent Life Histories of North American Birds

How long before field notes were made?immediately

How long before this form was completed?2 days