Pine Grosbeak, Pinicola enucleator

Status: Rare winter visitor

Winter: Pine Grosbeaks normally winter north of Iowa. Over the decade 1983-93, they were found in Iowa 8 of 10 winters with only one or two reports most of those years. They rarely arrive in Oct or Nov but most reports are from Dec. Pine Grosbeaks have been found throughout Iowa but mostly in the northern half of the state (Map). In 1977-78, at least 60 Pine Grosbeaks were reported from 9 counties (IBL 48:70), the only evidence of an invasion by this species into Iowa.

Early dates:

24 Aug 1986, Ames, Story Co. (IBL 57:22)

24 Oct 1922, Sioux City, Woodbury Co. (Spiker 1926)

26 Oct 1938, Ames, Story Co. (Hendrickson 1938)

Late dates:

28 Mar 1989, Decorah, Winneshiek Co. (IBL 59:86)

8 Mar 1981, State Center, Marshall Co. (IBL 51:70)

28 Feb 1981, Ames, Story Co. (IBL 51:33)

Summer: An immature seen in Ames on 24 Aug 1986 (IBL 57:22) was unprecedented.

Hendrickson, G. O. 1938. Canadian Pine Grosbeak at Ames. Iowa Bird Life 8:52.