

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Pine Grosbeak How many? 1 1st year ♂Location? E. side of Denver, IA, Bremer Co. just S. of off County Rd. 650 in townType of habitat? Backyard of Robert Wylder, coming to window feederWhen? date(s): February 11, 1984 time: 2:25 to 2:35Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Bob Myers, Waterloo; Robert Wylder, Denverothers before or after you: there were other people came later, do not know who

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.

This bird was not as tame as I was lead to believe. Mr. Wylder said that it was very jumpy and would fly at the smallest movement. The bird landed on the end of a feeder attached directly to the outside of the dining room window. I feed almost exclusively on the hulled sunflower seed on the tray. The bird was a grayish color on the breast and belly and on the back. Its wings and tail were a blackish color with somewhat indistinct white wing bars (broken). The birds back had lighter gray edged feathers with dark gray to black behind the light edgings, which gave it a ~~sp~~ dark spotted appenrance on its back. The head, neck and chin, rump and upper tail coverts were a rosy pink color. The birds eye was dark and its bill was kind of short and stubby looking for the size of the bird (about robin or ^{common} grackle size). The bird also had quite a long tail. I did not hear the birds voice. Mr. Wylder has some excellent photographs of the bird.

Similar species and how eliminated: I have never seen any of the other red and gray finches with this particular color combination before or any that were this large

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
 Cloudy, good lighting. Distance from bird at closest was approx. 6 feet using 7x35 mm B&L Roof Prism binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I saw one ♂ Pine Grosbeak on 12/27/80 and have quite a lot of experience with both Crossbills; lots of experience with Purple Finch.
 References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 2 hrs. this form completed? 26 hrs.

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