

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Blue Grosbeak - Male How many? 1

Location? Car was in Parking lot facing trees. Was having a "tea" break. Hartman Reserve, located between Waterloo and Cedar Falls, Ia.

Type of habitat? Highland trees, low bushes (forest)

When? date(s): Wed. - May 7th, 1986 approx. 12:30 PM (saw for 15 minutes) time: to

Who? your name and address: Viola P. Bebout, 4231 George Drive, Waterloo, Iowa 50703

others with you: George Bebout, Waterloo Everett Alton, Iowa City

others before or after you: none 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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Bird sat on limb approx. 15 feet away, 12 feet up (in deep shadows) appeared quite dark. Was watching a Least Flycatcher at time, when first spotted. Sat in first position for 5 or more minutes, then moved another 10 feet away in spot of sun light. Was smaller than a Robin, larger than an Indigo Bunting, had burnt orange, brown wing markings which showed up real bright in sunlight. Blue of bird was an dark intense Blue. Beak was thick, short. Head was not flat-round, but had a more curved top to it. Eye appeared dark. Bird faced all directions, while not moving out of sunlight. Just regret that we did not get a photograph to complete Documentation.

We had been photographing wild flowers, and all had macro lens on camera. If we had known the Grosbeak would have stayed in the position as long as it did, we would have tried to get in back and get out longer lens. Maybe there will be another time for us.

This is the first time we have ever seen a Blue Grosbeak, another first on our Bird List.

Similar species and how eliminated: When first seen, blue! Eliminated Blue Bird, (no red breast, wrong size). Eliminated Blue Bunting again because of size and bird had orange markings on wings. If Bird had not sat in direct sunlight for 10 minutes (plus) we could not have positively identified it. Did not sing.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No.

If yes, explain:

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

All 3 had binoculars. I had Bushnell 7 x 35 field glasses. Used the Golden Birds of Deep Shadow, and then sun light limb. North Am.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Member, Waterloo Audubon, been birding and feeding birds for 10 years.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Francis Moore

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 3 weeks

Just got form from Francis Moore.

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240