

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Blue Grosbeak How many? 1Location? Crotan Unit - Shimek State Forest - Lee Co.Type of habitat? Crops on one side of road, pasture on the other sideWhen? date(s): June 7, 1985 time: 6:20 p.m. to 6:25 p.m.Who? your name and address: MARK Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: None

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 male Blue Grosbeak was first seen perched on phone or power lines about 25 yards away with the sun on the bird. It was blue with brownish wings and had a grosbeak bill. After a bit it flew across the road about 35 yards away and was perched on a barbed wire fence and then a sapling. I got the scope on him and distinctly saw the brown wingbars and other details more closely.

Later in talking with Bob Cecil of Keokuk, he told me that this was the same spot where he saw a male Blue Grosbeak on June 30, 1984, and thought it was just a one-time sighting for the area.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Indigo Buntings are much smaller, do not have the big grosbeak bill, and lack the brownish wingbars.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Clear and sunny, distances estimated, 7x35 binoculars, 22x scope on a window-mount.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I've seen quite a few Blue Grosbeaks (some just 4 days earlier) and lots of Indigo Buntings.  
References and persons consulted before writing description:  
R.T. Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds and Beth Proescholdt's field notes.

How long before field notes made? Right Away this form completed? July 17, 1985

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