

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species House Finch 2. Number: one male
 3. Location Ames, Story County, Iowa
 4. Date: 8 July 5. Time Bird seen: 1/2 min at 8:45 AM to CDST
 6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
Sparrow-sized, short thick conical beak; general color brown; top of head & upper breast slightly orangish-red; lower breast ~~with~~ very pale with fine streaks; side of face between brownish & reddish - no definite light or dark eye or eyebrow line(s). did not see back. Low 'forehead' compared to male Purple Finch.
 7. Description of voice, if heard: warbling - not nearly so fancy as Purple Finch.
 8. Description of behavior: sitting in top of a 20 ft tall spruce tree singing.
 9. Habitat - general: in town
specific:
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Purple Finch - male has a purplish or rose red color & no streaking on breast; song is different
 11. Distance (how measured)? 75 ft
 12. Optical equipment: 7 x 35 binoculars
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): sun to southeast of me - bird to north west
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
saw many in 1973 in Idaho.
 15. Other observers:
 16. Did the others agree with your identification?
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
When I heard this bird, the song wasn't entirely unfamiliar, yet I knew it had been a long time since I'd heard it, and I couldn't remember what bird sang that way. I got my binoculars before trying to find it. Heard for abt 2 minutes.
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
immediately
- Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Address: 1120 Marston
- Date: 21 July 1985 City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010