BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species House Finch   2. Number: one male

3. Location Brookside Park, Ames, Story County, Iowa

4. Date: 12 October 1985   5. Time Bird seen: 30 sec's to abt 3 pm

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):

about size of House Sparrow. general color brown, white belly; head, throat & breast a somewhat orangy red; brown streaks on sides of breast and belly.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard

8. Description of behavior: just perched, moved very little, then flew away

9. Habitat - general: youngish ~~maxxxxt~~ maple trees along Squaw Creek
specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Purple Finch - does not have brown streaks on side (Male); back & wings are rosey.

11. Distance (how measured)? abt 20 feet   12. Optical equipment:
bird perched abt 5 feet off ground   7 x 35 binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
sun to south of me, bird to east

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Saw one earlier in town; Several years ago saw lots of them in southwestern Idaho.

15. Other observers:
none

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:
A Field Guide to The Birds by R T Peterson

just confirmed my main observation that this bird had strong brown stripes on its sides & was less generally colored than what I remembered for a Purple Finch.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
a half hour

Signature _____ Address: 1120 Marston

Date: 3 November 1985   City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010

(over)