

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extra ordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? House Finches How many? 3Location? Corydon, (Wayne County)Type of habitat? Residential area - (Apple Tree, Wires, Tube Feeders)When? date(s): July 12, 1986 time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - very approximateWho? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Steve Dinsmoreothers before or after you: Jim Fuller, Eugene + Eloise ArmstrongDescribe 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.
Dennis Thompson

We located three all-brown finches in a residential area near a large apple tree with rotting apples. We saw them from 15-20 feet away to 30 yards away on power lines, a tube feeder, and several other trees. These birds were brown-streaked overall and lacked the distinctive ear patch and eyebrow of a ♀ Purple Finch. One appeared quite heavily streaked and more than the others seemed to be. We thought that probably was the female. One bird was on a wire calling and begging for food. Occasionally they flew around and flew in a bobbing finch way.

Dorothy Clayton Pohl
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Dorothy had these in her yard - 1♂, 1♀, and 2-3 young. She took pictures of them and sent one to Doug Reeves. She showed pictures to Steve and me which showed a male House Finch.

Similar species and how eliminated: A female Purple Finch has the distinctive dark ear patch and light eyebrow stripe which these did not. A pine siskin has a different look and is smaller, slimmer, and has a thin bill.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny, good lighting. Distances estimated. 8X30 Binoculars and Steve's scope on a window mount.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen House Finches on E. and W. Coast. Very familiar with Purple Finches and Pine Siskins.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Natl. Geog. Birds of N. America, Robbins' Birds of N. America, Peterson's Guide to the Birds,

How long before field notes made? Just after viewing this form completed? July 25, 1986

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