

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? House finch How many? 2 ♀'sLocation? Ledges State Park - Boone Co.Type of habitat? Fairly open area - scattered red cedar + other treesWhen? date(s): Oct. 1, 1986 time: 9:05 AM to 9:10 AMWho? your name and address: Robert K. Myers, R.R. 2, Box 153, Perry, Iowa 50220others with you: -others before or after you: -

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.

I was searching for late warblers when the two birds flew in and landed in front of me. They were slightly smaller - at least thinner than house sparrows. They were basically light tan with darker brown streaks on breast, flanks and back. They were too thin for ♀ purple finches and lacked any trace of a white eyeline. They ^{were} too streaked to be indigo buntings (wrong color as well). I thought of possible pine siskins but there was no yellow visible on wings (bars of any color were not noted), the bill was short and stout - not as thin as siskin, and the tail did not show deep notch ⁱⁿ terminal end - had fairly shallow "V" notch. Basically thru process of elimination I concluded these must be house finches. Also, no darker ear patch was noted.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Bright - sunny day - 30 to 40 ft. - 10X40 binocs -Previous experience with species and similar ones: These are my first house finches - wish they were ♂'s -References and persons consulted before writing description: Nat. Geographic GuideHow long before field notes made? - this form completed? 1 day

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