

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Pine Grosbeak How many? 1Location? Glendale cemetery, Des MoinesType of habitat? plantings of mixed conifers next to feeders in adjacent yardsWhen? date(s): Feb 6, Feb 13 time: 2/6 - 10:30 - 10:32
2/13 4:45 - 4:48Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscombothers with you: Mark Proescholdt, Phyllis Harris, Armstrongsothers before or after you: Eugene + Eloise Armstrong, Steve Dinsmore, et al

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.

Mark, Phyllis + I were trying to track down the low, soft, warbling song we heard when the bird was spotted in the top of a bare deciduous tree. At first all we saw was the bird, the size of a cardinal but more plump, with soft gray underparts from bill to undertail coverts, a long dark, notched tail and 2 wing bars. As it dipped its head I saw russet on the crown and knew it was a Pine Grosbeak - a first year male or a ^{russet} female. Later when we returned, along with Armstrongs, we saw it again, eating seeds from pods of a redbud tree - again, in full view and good lighting. ^{it was calling, then - a 3-noted call.} A week later we saw it as it landed in the top of a spruce before flying on.

Similar species and how eliminated: no other bird that is really similarDid any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NOIf yes, explain: no disagreement on identification, but upon color on Crown - I saw russet Phyllis from a different angle saw yellow. Eloise saw 1/2 way in-between. On Feb 13, Mark + I both saw a decided russet.

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

clear day, sun behind us, 25' (approx) - binocularsPrevious experience with species and similar ones: I have seen a few Pine Grosbeaks, 2 in Iowa, several in WyomingReferences and persons consulted before writing description: I checked field guides, but I knew at once what it wasHow long before field notes made? made at once this form completed? Feb. 20, 1985

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