

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Pine grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*, ad. ♂ 2. Number 1 ♂
3. Location State Center, IA; feeders of Jim + Dorothy Maisch.
4. Date: 3-8-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:00 to 8:10 AM.

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):

Size of robin but heavier in body and with a short-necked, 'bullet headed' look. bill: short, conical, dark in color. leg color not noted. Back, crown, breast, upper belly rose-red. dark line through eye. grey smudge at shoulder, appeared to extend onto back. undertail coverts and lower belly greyish brown. Wings blackish with 2 white wing bars. tail narrow, appeared dark but was in shadow.

7. Description of voice, if heard: —

8. Description of behavior: at window feeders; came + left rapidly.

9. Habitat - general: small town; house was at s. edge of town.

specific: yard with feeders, birdbath, hedges, tall trees.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
large size rules out all other winter finches. red head eliminates robin. dark wings, wing bars, size lack of crest rule out cardinal.

11. Distance (how measured)?
50' est

12. Optical equipment: 8x40 binocs.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
bright sunny day; sun behind observers.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
have seen all of the N. Am. red finches.

15. Other observers: C + B Knight, T. Kent, T Shuis.

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: ?

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
none

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? notes made immediately after sighting; transcribed 3/9

Signature: Michael C Newlon Address: 408 Wales St.

Date: 3-9-81 City, State: Duwa City, IA 52240