

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For extraordinary bird sightings in X_IA, __NE or __SD

Species: White-winged Crossbill

Number seen: 4 m./9 f.

Location: Logan Park Cemetery, Woodbury County, IA

Habitat: savannah of conifer and deciduous trees, including fruiting white (?) spruce

Date: 12/13/97

Time: 1115

Bill Huser 140 Oakmont Dr. S. Sioux City, NE 68776

Others with me: Jerry Probst

Others before/after me: Bob Moritz, Bob Livermore

Description: a small flock of passerines feeding on spruce seeds.

A majority of the birds were bright yellow, with dark wings sporting two wide, white wing bars. Three of the birds were a bright rosy pink, also with dark wings and two wide, white wing bars. Another bird was intermediate being a dull yellow with a pink wash and wings similar to the others. The tails of all the individuals were dark as the wings. The size and mass of the birds appeared to be similar to House Sparrows. The bills were characterized by crossed mandibles.

Similar species & differentiation: The bright colored plumages eliminate Pine Siskins and all female Carpodacus finches. The male birds' rosy coloration was more extensive and uniform than that of male Carpodacus Finches. The crossed mandibles eliminate all finches including Pine and Evening Grosbeaks. The bold wing bars eliminate Red Crossbills.

Disagreeing identifications: none

Conditions - light, distance & optics: Minolta 10X50 binocs, B&L 10X42 binocs; excellent frontal lighting at less than 10 meters.

Previous experience with species: Seen on two previous occasions in IA & NE.

References: Nat'l Geog. Field Guide.

Notes taken, with bird in view: later: immediately after
Identified with birds in view.

Documented: 1/2/98

Bill Huser

Jerry Probst