

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Blue Grosbeak How many? 1Location? North of Liscomb - (Marshall County)Type of habitat? Trees along a gravel roadWhen? date(s): June 11, 1993 time: 9:50 a.m. to 9:51 a.m.
10:00 a.m. to 10:01 a.m. approximatelyWho? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Noneothers before or after you: None

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 heard this lovely song as I was walking along the road. I wondered if it was an Orchard Oriole that was singing. But I saw it and it was too dark-colored and big for an orchard oriole. I got my binocs and returned. I heard it singing and located it. It was a male with brilliant dark blue plumage. It had a light blue bill that was big and thick like a grosbeak bill. It had chestnut wing bars on its bluish wings. It sang a lively, lovely grosbeak song all the time. It flew over the crest of a hill and was not seen again. It was around the size of a cowbird or a red-winged blackbird. It was quite a surprise!

Similar species and how eliminated: Indigo Bunting has a quite different song, is much smaller, and lacks the big bill and chestnut wing bars.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain: _____

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Sunny, sun behind me, 25-30 yards away estimated.8x30 Binocs.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen many in western Iowa.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 10 minutes this form completed? June 11, 1993
or 50