

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Pine Grosbeak (a juvenal) How many? 1

Location? State Forest Nursery, Ames IA

Type of habitat? extensive mixed conifer belts

When? date(s): 24 Aug 86 time: 10:00 to 10:01 A.M.

Who? your name and address: Erk Munson 3223 West St Ames IA 50010

others with you: Steve Dinsmore

others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

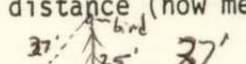
Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A redwing-to-robin sized bird flew into one of the nearby conifers in response to a screech owl tape. As it eyed the tape recorder, I noted its bill, a medium gray and definitely that of a finch, its finely streaked light breast, and its notched tail. The tail was quite long. The head appeared small compared to its plump body. Just before the bird alighted, it called with a finchlike "chee-ee." The eye was dark, and the overall face area lacked prominent marking. The bird was a good 25 ft. above me so that I could not see its back or rump. However, as I moved for my camera, the bird flew and landed lower, giving Dinsmore a look at its wingbars.

Similar species and how eliminated:  
 Crossbills, Evening Grosbeak by tail length, size. fem. redwing by call, face, wingbars.  
 Juv. towhee by bill, lack of white in wing, tail.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
good  8x32 binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones:  
juv. towhees seen within the week. none with Pine Grosbeak.

References and persons consulted before writing description:  
Dinsmore, 5 guides.  
 How long before field notes made? on the spot this form completed? 2 hrs.

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