

8/14/25
EP-58378 4/68

INTER DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

(PLEASE CONFINE TO ONE SUBJECT)

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION - DES MOINES, IOWA

TO Richard Bishop DATE 18 July 1979

FROM Carl Priebe

SUBJECT: Sighting of a Blackheaded Grosbeak-Rose-breasted Grosbeak Hybrid

Rich,

On the afternoon of 10 July, 1979 I sighted a bird that I would have to identify as a hybrid resulting from a cross between a Rosebreasted Grosbeak and a Black-headed Grosbeak. The bird was sighted in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec.12 T-92N R-19W in Franklin County.

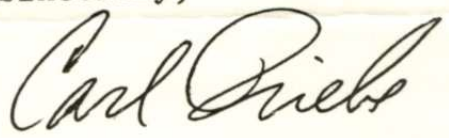
The bird was definately a grosbeak as it had the thick, heavy bill. It had a black head, white wing patches, and an orange-yellow breast. What makes me think it is a hybrid is that the orange-yellow on ghe breast was only in the upper part, identical to the rose bib of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The remainder of the breast was white.

The bird was sighted in a timbered area of approximately 20 acres on a hill overlooking the West Fork of the Cedar River. It was sitting on a dead branch of an oak tree about ten feet off the ground. I did not see a female grosbeak in the area.

To my knowledge the Black-headed Grosbeak is very rare in Iowa. According to Bruun, Robbins, Zim, and Singer (Birds of North America) the Black-headed Grosbeak will hybridize with the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. If this is the case I would think the chances of that happening would be muck greater where we seldom have a Black-headed Grosbeak. The chances of one finding a mate of the same species would be very remote.

Please pass this information on to those that sould be notified.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED BY

JUL 20 1979

FISH & WILDLIFE