

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

2-1971

Common Name: Hoary Redpoll Scientific Name: *Carduelis hornemanni*
 Date: 26-Feb-99 Time: ~7:45 am Length of time observed: 2 observations over 5 minutes period
 Number: 1 Age: adult Sex: probable ♀ due to lack of pink wash on chest
 Location: 975 East 200 North Hyde Park, Utah
 Lat/long: 3 Elevation (if known): ~4800 Ft.
 Distance to bird: 30' and 50' Light conditions: Bright overcast
 Optical equipment: Bausch & Lomb Elites 10X42
 Weather: Mostly cloudy, 30°F, fresh snow fell previous night
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

This bird was seen with a flock of rosy finches (150 gray-crowned, 1 black) at a house with multiple feeders. The flock would fly around and portions of the flock would land for a minute or two. The hoary redpoll was observed sitting twice. In the first view, the bird was observed from the underside. The bird was similar in size if not slightly smaller than the rosy finches. The underparts were nearly pure white from the small black throat patch all the way through the under tail coverts. Perhaps only a few small, faint dark flecks were seen on the upper sides. A small bright red patch was seen on the forehead when the bird turned. The underside of the tail was dark. In the second view, the bird was seen sitting sideways. The overall appearance was very whitish - at first impression a partial albino. But the small black bib, extending up between the bill and eye were clearly visible. On the forehead was a small bright red patch. The underside of the bird was pure white, including the undertail coverts. The base color of the back was bright white with some dark streaks (brownish black) extending from the back of the head to the center of the back. The rump was pure white. The wings were a mixture of blackish and white, with 2 white wingbars visible and extensive white on the tertials. The tail appeared mostly blackish. The bill was mostly light colored and noticeably small.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: None

Behavior: Flew around with a flock of rosy finches and was observed to land in trees twice.

Habitat: Rural home setting: mixture of trees, shrubs and open areas (corral, lawn, driveway) adjacent to open fields. A canal bordered by trees and shrubs passes nearby.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Common redpoll is the most similar bird. However, this bird was much too white in overall coloration, the rump and undertail coverts were pure white, the breast and belly were pure white, the upper back and neck had too much white.

Albino finches (house, cassins) were eliminated by the color pattern (fit redpoll), bright red patch on top of the head, tiny black bib extending up between the bill and eye. Snow bunting - this bird was too small, had bright red on forehead, small black bib, no large white wing patch, less white in tail, streaked back.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have seen 20 or so of this species on Attu Island, Alaska at close range. The pale overall look, clean white underparts and bright white rump were consistent with this bird. I have also seen many ^{common} redpolls (including some in Cache Valley) and this bird was much whiter than any I have seen.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Nat. Geo. Birds of N.A., Peterson Field Guide to Western birds, Audubon Society Master Guide (Vol III), Fleggs field guide to Birds of Britain & Europe, Field Guide to Rare Birds of Britain & Europe were all consulted to verify field marks. Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds was consulted between observations.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Few if any documented records.

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

(none)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting X notes made later from memory X

Observer: Ron Rye

Signature:

Ron Rye

Address: 1649 North 1000 East

North Logan, UT 84341

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Larry Rye observed at the same time, but was also immediate in his identification.

Date prepared: 26-Feb-99 (within 30 minutes of observation).

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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