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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: White-winged Crossbill
(Vernacular Name)Loxia leucoptera
(Scientific Name)Date(s): 4-17-82Number of birds seen: 3 Sex: Male - 2 Male - Adult
Female or Immature Plumage: 3 bird - undeterminedLocality: Roosevelt National Forest, west side of Quinn MountainElevation: 11,080'Locality: T15 R 74W Section 22Nearest town: NederlandCounty: BoulderTime(s) observed: 1:00 pmDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 20 secondsOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
—Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)
—Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
Extremely bright, cloudless, sunny day. Snow covered ground. Sun high in sky, slightly behind birds. Birds shaded from direct light by E. Spruce tree in which they were perched.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Minolta, Pocket Binoculars 8x24 8.7' wideDistance, and how measured: 28' (ski length)If photographed, type of equipment and film: —Who else photographed the bird? —Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):
Birds flew in from north travelling south, calling during flight. Landed at mid-tree height. No cones at this height on tree, birds were doing no feeding. After about 10-12 seconds, birds flew off heading south, again volume & amount of calling increased.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

As birds flew in, first heard them, then saw red on two of birds. Calls were nothing like P. Grosbeak so thought they were probably Red Crossbills that I had seen several times this winter feeding on E. Spruce cones. I got rid of ski poles and got out binoculars. First saw prominent white wing bars on dark wings and remainder of body was red. Then as head turned, saw crossed mandibles of beak. Birds then flew off. Saw white wing bars on other male but did not get look at 3rd bird which had no red.

Description (continued):

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): call was a series of 2-4 high pitched notes. Call had greater volume and amount while in flight than when perched.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Spruce/Fir Ecosystem. West facing hillside made up of E. Spruce and Subalpine fir, slightly bent and twisted due to high winds and exposure of area.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Got good look at white wing bars - very wide and bright which eliminated R. Crossbill call and then crossed mandible eliminated P. Grosbeak.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

This is first time I've clearly identified this species. Thought I had seen it once before during this winter, but didn't get a good look - but that made me aware of what to look for. Otherwise I spend most of time hiking or touring between Eldora (el 8700) and Continental Divide where I've seen numerous P. Grosbeaks and more R. Crossbills than one normally expects for the upper montane and Spruce/Fir Ecosystem.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation:

Had Robbins, et.al. with me, but never did consult.

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during after observation from memory
Date and time report was written: _____

Reporting observer: Dave Hallock Signature: Dave H. Hallock

Address: Eldora Star Route, Nederland, CO 80466

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
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