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THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
SALT LAKE CITY 84112

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

March 9, 1973

Mr. Hugh Kingery
10 Emerson Street No. 503
Denver, Colorado 80218

Dear Mr. Kingery:

Thanks ever so much for the information on Purple Finches occurring in Utah during the winter of 1972-73 based on the observations of Rick Stuart. I will try and get in touch with him.

Quite by coincidence I heard from a former student just the other day that he has had Purple Finches along with Cassin's at a feeding table this winter here in Salt Lake and I have dredged up a sight record of several years ago of some seen during the winter at Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City. Thus, it appears that the Purple Finch is a sporadic winter visitant and I suggest accepting and publishing Stuart's data in American Birds. My "discoveries" came about in connection with an updating of the Utah list for the American Birding Association's forthcoming publication as well as for a local brochure that we are preparing.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



William H. Behle

WHB:mv

Gale Monson
8831 N. Riviera Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85704

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11 July 1984

Dear Ms. Sorensen:

In answer to your letter of 5 July regarding occurrences of the Purple Finch in Utah, I think you would be correct to assume there are no reliable records for Utah unless there is a specimen somewhere that we don't know exists.

One must be quite familiar with both species to be able to identify them in the field, and be a good observer as well. They are tricky to tell apart.

Since Rick Wilt made his 1972 observations at Pipe Springs he has been, shall we say, "educated." I doubt he would make a similar mistake today. I have not heard of or from him for a long time. The last address I have for him is: Richard Wilt, 6116 McPherson, St. Louis MO 63112. I presume he is still with the NPS.

I am afraid that the Editor of the CBC in 1972 was not very critical. I do not have that issue of Am. Birds on hand so I don't know who it was.

It is good that you are being so critical with Utah records. I'm afraid we were a bit on the lenient side on our AZ list. Since its publication I have discovered some instances of where we were mistaken in accepting records: hindsight being so much better than foresight.

I notice that Ro Wauer does not include the Purple Finch on his Zion canyon list.

Sincerely yours,

Gale Monson