

55-1985 a

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: **Brambling**

Scientific Name: **Fringilla Montifringilla**

Date: **Nov. 28, 30, 1985** Time: **8:30 am & various others**

Length of time observed: **1/2-1 Hour, sometime only a few minutes**

Number: **one**

Age: **adult**

Sex: **male (varified by Jon Dunn)**

Location: **Back Yard, 817 East 300 North
Brigham City, Utah (Box Elder County)**

Latilong:

Elevation (if known): **4300**

Distance to bird: **6 ft**

Light conditions: **Good**

Optical equipment: **Binoculars, 7 x 35**

Weather: **Sunny, partly cloudy, foggy**

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Taken from field notes: "Dec, 3, 1985, 8:30 am, warmer & rain. Size of finch, light-colored seed-eater bill, orange on upper breast and shoulder, white belly & white on rump when flying, brownish stripped back and back of head, orange wing bar, white or light chin, dark around eye, notched tail."

"Dec. 21, 32°₀, foggy to sunny, brambling here."

"Dec. 22, 26°₀, patches of fog, sunny, brambling here at 9:15 am; 12:00; 2:00pm; 3:50pm."

"Dec. 23, brambling arrived at 8:37am, 24°₀, overcast, grey speckled head, yellow beak with black tip, black wings, slightly bigger than a finch, speckles on flank, orange cast on head when sun hits it."

Observed in yard on Dec 24, 1985; Jan. 11, 12, 14, 16, 20, 1986

Additional observations made at a later date: The size is same length as a H. finch but definately heavier, small white wing bar going 90° to orange wing bar, dark tail, speckled back, orange shoulder going to the back, speckled cheek patch, dark eye with white ring then dark ring.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

Behavior: At first very shy and would let the finches & juncos push him away from the seeds, but by mid-January he showed more aggression. He came to the yard only when it was full of birds (50-100). Flocked with the h. finches. Ate black-oil sunflower seeds.

Habitat: I had a platform feeder by the window and also hanging feeders with sunflower seeds. I didn't ever see him feed on these. He fed on the ground under the feeders. He liked the large mulberry tree. He also ate apples that were left on the apple tree. He took a bath in a barrel lid with the h. finches and h. sparrows.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated: Black-headed grosbeak

Size: I was able to compare length to a house finch feeding by its side

Beak: After close observation, it definately was not a grosbeak beak

White rump patch: grosbeaks do not have this patch

What experience have you had with this and similar species: None

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

The description was written before he was found in the National Geographic Guide

Significance of record in this area or the state: Second state record

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available) Many photographs & slides available

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

Observer: Sharon Andrus

Signature:

Address: 817 East 300 North
Brigham City, Utah 84302
(801)723-3023



Other observers who independently identified this bird: Ella Sorensen, Richard Sorensen, Joe Leigh, Lucy Parkinson, Craig Kneedy, Michael Tove, Jules Dreyfuss, Vard Jones, Maxine Martz. Pat Spencer, 550 Holiday Dr., Brigham, did not identify it but it visited her yard on several occasions and she has photos and a video recording of it. She saw the newspaper article and called me.

Date prepared: June 13, 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120

The Brambling was first observed in my backyard bird feeding area at 817 East 300 North, Brigham City, Utah by myself and several members of my family on the afternoon of November 28, 1985. No one recognized the bird, but we all knew it was a "new" bird. It ate black oil sunflower seeds. I saw it again on November 30, but was still unable to identify it. It was only in the yard briefly. I saw it again on December 3, and was able to write a description and observe it for several minutes. It took a bath with the house finches and house sparrows in a barrel lid. Besides eating the sunflower seeds it ate apples that had been left on the tree. I was pretty sure of the identification at this time but could not believe it could be a brambling. The bird was not seen again until December 21. It was in the yard for about a half-hour. I realized that it was definately a brambling. I tried to call members of the Wasatch Audubon but no one was home, finally that night I talked to Lucy Parkinson, who lived in Ogden and she was going to call a couple of expert birders in our group. The bird came again the next morning so I call the Utah Hot Line and talked to Joe Leigh. He, Ella and Richard Soranson came from Salt Lake and was able to observe and verify the brambling. He appeared again on the 23 and 24. Lucy Parkinson and Craig Kneady from Ogden observed him on December 24. He came several times during that day and that was the last time I saw him until January 11, 1986, when he showed up in a yard about a block away and he also visited my yard that same day. He appeared in the neighbor yard again on January 12 and was observed by Michael Tove.

REFERENCES:

Scott, Shirley L., ed., Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Washington D.C: National Geographic Society, 1983.
 Farrand, John, Jr., ed., American Birds, New York, NY: National Audubon Society, Vol. 38, No. 3.

Sharon Andros
 817 East 300 North
 Brigham City Ut 84302
 723-3023

The prints didn't
 turn out very good -
 I'll try again -
 He was here today, the
 14th, mid-morning.
 Sharon