

25-1987

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VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Lesser Goldfinch Scientific Name: *Carduelis psaltria*
Date: November 17, 1987 Time: early afternoon Length of time observed: ~ 15 minutes
Number: ~ 10 Age: Adult Sex: ♂
Location: Benson Marsh, Cache County, Benson, Utah
Latilong: — Elevation (if known): ~ 4400'
Distance to bird: ~ 50' Light conditions: excellent
Optical equipment: 7x35 Binoculars
Weather: Sunny, partly cloudy

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

I was out collecting bird nests at the time, I recognized the call to be unusual to me. I immediately started searching the trees w/o the aid of binoculars. found it. View w/ binoculars.

What immediately struck me (besides it being a Goldfinch) was the small size of it, it did not have the robust size, nor shape that is accustomed to the Am. Goldfinch.

The back was an olive green color, uniform to tail w/ undersides being a pale yellow. white wing patch observable both perched and in flight.

Feather condition appeared relatively good, but some weathering in the primaries was observable.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: Delivered in flight and from perch, but I'm not well-suited to call notes.

Behavior: Situated in low growing willows (~15'), calling both in flight and at perch. Flight characteristically undulating, seemed restless, fluttering about the limbs, retreating to higher trees when approached.

Habitat: Woodland along Bear River, a shallow area consisting of cottonwood wreaths (Tooles) and heavy 'horse burrs'.

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

The only other species it could have been is the Am. Goldfinch.

The rump patch was not whitish, but uniform with the back, and also the wing patch was most observable during flight.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I've viewed Lesser Goldfinch in Grand Canyon Natl Park (fall 87) and in Wickenburg, AZ (Summer 87). I've viewed Am. Goldfinch on several occasions.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: I had both the Golden and Audubon guide with me on hand, they were necessary in positive id.

Significance of record in this area or the state: According to Dr. Keith Dixon (USU) a significant sighting for Northern Utah

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

Description from notes taken at time of sighting _____ notes made later ☒ from memory ☒

Observer: Terry A. Hall

Address: 3646 N. 2400th

Benson, UT 84335

Signature: Terry A. Hall

Other observers who independently identified this bird: Mr. Richard Bell was also with me, but is not an avid birder, but he too agreed with the diagnostic characteristics.

Date prepared: December 02, 1987

Return this form to:

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