

879-01-2002

Subject: Pine Grosbeak report for PORC

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 22:03:33 -0500

From: "Mark A. McConaughy" <TimeTraveler@email.msn.com>

To: "Nick Pulcinella" <nickpul@bellatlantic.net>

Nick,

I wasn't able to get any photos, but here is my description of the Pine Grosbeaks in Tioga County for PORC.

Mark A. McConaughy

Pine Grosbeak
Pinicola enucleator
Tioga County
26 January 2002
Mark A. McConaughy

On 26 January 2002, I visited the location along Hardscrabble Road outside of Mansfield, Tioga County where Ben Israel reported finding Pine Grosbeaks. I arrived at the location along Hardscrabble Road where there was a mowed hay field on the left (north?) side of the road and mixed crabapple and shrub brush on the right (south?) side of the road. The directions are based on the location of the sun which seem to travel across the sky over the south side of the road moving right to left. It was a sunny day with only jet contrails in the sky for contrast. The weather was also very warm, in the 50-60F range and only some lingering snow was on the sheltered side of the road.

I arrived just after noon on 26 January 2002. A couple was already there indicated the Pine Grosbeaks had been feeding in a near crabapple tree with some Cedar Waxwings just before I had arrived. Unfortunately, they had been spooked off by something and were not there when I arrived. The couple left at about 1 PM and I continued to wait for the birds to show up again. Few other birds were in the area and I only saw a single Tufted Titmouse in the area where the Pine Grosbeaks were being observed. It is the only bird I could use for comparative scale.

At 1:30 PM three birds landed in some of the small saplings behind the crabapples and scrub brush section. I got my scope on them and they were the Pine Grosbeaks. They did not sit in the tree very long before flying over to some other trees on the west side of the crabapple/shrub field. I again got my scope lined up on them and got a good look at all three birds before they spooked off and flew off to the south southwest over the woods at about 1:35 PM. Unfortunately, they did not sit still in one spot long enough for me to get set up for photographs with my digital camera. I waited around until 2 PM with the hope they would return and I could get some photographs. They did not return by 2 PM and I left at that time to look for a Snowy Owl that was down at Allenwood Prison.

The three Pine Grosbeaks appeared to be 1 female and 2 russet males or immatures. The three birds were all larger than the Tufted Titmouse I had seen in those same trees. They appeared to be larger than House Finches and Purple Finches, but none were around for direct comparison. The specimen I identified as a female had a thick, black roughly triangular-shaped bill that did not cross like those of crossbills. The head was rounded and the top of the head and nape of the neck were a yellowish color. It had a light gray to white immediately under the bill (i.e., "chin" area). The wings and tail were dark gray to black in color and the wings had two white wing bars. The body and back of the bird was primarily a gray-color with a tinge of

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yellow on the rump. The body was rather rounded giving it a fatter look than House Finches, siskins, etc. The two russet males or immatures pretty much matched the description of the female with the exception that the head and nape of the neck had rufous tinges to them and the color did seem to extend down to the "chin" area.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Pine Grosbeak (Pinicola enucleator)

Date of Sighting: 26 January 2002 to 26 January 2002

Location: MANSFIELD

County: TIOGA

Observer(s): Mark McConaughy

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Mark McConaughy, D. FarboT.n.k

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: ~~No~~ *Yes*

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Hess	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 1/19/03