

4 December 1994

Rick Wiltraut  
205 Washington Street  
Nazareth, PA 18064

Dear Rick,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Hoary Redpoll you saw at Bath on 26 February 1972 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we feel that we are unable to accept this record. Various committee members felt that the plumage description lacked several details. In particular, no mention was made of the extent of streaking on the flanks or the size and shape of the bill. This of course does not mean that the bird was not a Hoary Redpoll, merely that the details submitted do not allow for a concrete determination by the committee.

We encourage you to continue to submit documentation of any rare birds you may see in the future.

Sincerely

Nick Pulcinella  
Chairman

Record# 887-01-1972

A "probable" Hoary Redpoll near Bath, Pennsylvania

887-01-1972

February 26, 1972  
12:45 EST

"It was about 12:00 noon at my sisters farm in Bath. I was trying to hand-tame the chickadees, but they would only fly down to my feet and refused to come any closer. Went into the car and took out my pair of binoculars. I walked down to the creek that runs through the property. There was snow on the ground which set up a good background for a group of small brown colored birds clinging to a patch of weeds. They would fly down along the bank (maybe to bathe or drink, I could not see this) and hop back up on the weeds. Further investigation proved them to be a flock of Common Redpolls. I counted 16 of these hardy little fellows. While I was counting them, I noticed one that was paler than the others. I took my eyes off him and resumed counting. Most of the birds were feeding close together, but to the left were two or three separated from the flock. One of these birds was much paler on the back and on the side of its head. It looked very white on the back compared to the others. From the nape to the middle of its back it had very light streakings. The rest of the back was almost completely white. It also had a slightly bulkier build than the others. I studied it for about three minutes, but lost it when I turned my head towards the house. I searched the whole flock closely, but still could not find it. I said to myself that I was probably seeing things, that I just thought I saw it. I looked up along the fencerow and on a small tree it sat. I studied it for another two minutes. I could see the white on the back very clearly now since its back was facing me. I at once identified it as a Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*). I backed up slowly towards the house, but even though these birds are very tame they flew. They landed in the tree with the Hoary Redpoll. I went into the house and told my mother and sister to look at the flock. Even at this distance which is about 100 feet away, they could clearly separate the Hoary from the rest. This seems to be the only record that I know of in the area (Northampton and Lehigh counties)."

Rick Wilbur  
1972

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

Date of Sighting: 26 February 1972 to 26 February 1972

Location: BATH

County: NORTHAMPTON

Observer(s): Rick Wiltraut

Date of Submission: 1994

Submitted by: Rick Wiltraut

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella				X				
E. Kwater				X				
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe							X	
J. Skinner						X		
TOTALS			3	2		1	1	
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Haas*

Date:

9-25-94