

















Species: Hoary Redpoll, sex: probably male - due to faint pink wash on breast. Seemed to be an adult

Date: Sunday, Jan. 17, 2011 - 11am

Location: Presque Isle State Park, PA - south end of North pier Trail in birch grove Erie, PA

Habitat: Woodland Edge - Birch Grove

Distance from bird: 10-20 feet

Weather: Sunny, about 27 degrees, 11 am. Sun behind me.

Optics Pentax, 8x43, DCF SP, Binos.

Camera: Canon Powershot A640 AiAF

General Description: The bird seemed to have a faint pinkish wash to the breast, and no streaking on the vent and undertail coverts. Also, the streaking on the flanks was fainter than the nearby Common Redpolls as was the color of the paler upperparts. Observation information. My wife (Andrea Berry) and I heard that Common redpolls had been recently seen at Presque Isle State Park, PA. The weather Jan 17, 2011 was nice at 11am (about 27 degrees, and sunny, and little to no wind). We looked for redpolls in the birch grove on the north pier trail (extreme SE section of the park). Within a few minutes we saw 2-3 birds in the birch that turned out to be Common Redpolls. For a few minutes we watched from a distance as the small flock moved east. We walked around a huge Sand Pile and got a much closer look. It was then that I noticed one of the birds in the feeding in the birch trees was much paler than the others. I studied Redpolls the night before in my Nat Geo. Field Guide (and had it on hand) so I was reminded that there was a chance for Hoary Redpoll associating with feeding Common Redpolls. I watched and photographed the Hoary for about 5-10 minutes as it ate birch seeds. Luckily, I was also able to watch 3-5 darker birds (Common Redpolls) for comparison. The Hoary seemed to have a faint pinkish wash to the breast, and no streaking on the vent and undertail coverts. Also, the streaking on the flanks was fainter than the Common Redpolls as was the color of the upperparts. At the time I told my wife and a wildlife photographer

that showed up that I thought the bird might be a rare Hoary Redpoll, but not until I got home and looked at the photos and researched the field marks a little more was I convinced it was indeed a Hoary Redpoll. The Bird was eating birch seeds and was extremely focused on eating. Once it finished one birch seed niblet, it would just move on to the next and focus 100% on the birch seeds. The bird was very close to a couple common redpolls also hyper-focused on feeding. After about 10 minutes, all the redpolls slowly moved on to other nearby birch trees. Attached please find photos of the bird. If I can't attach all of them I'll send an email with more. Please let me know if you want any other information (I took some limited video, but it wasn't good quality)

Sincerely,

Jason Berry

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887-01-2011

Hoary Redpoll

Carduelis hornemanni

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Location: Beach 11 area at Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., Pa.

Date: January 22, 2011

Time: about 1:30 to 2:00 PM

Weather: Variably cloudy, light south wind, temp. 10 F

Viewing distance: about 100 feet

Optics: Zeiss 10X40 Binocular and Kowa TSN 4 with variable objective lens set at 30 X

Details: Mike Weible called me around noon and said he was watching a Hoary Redpoll with a flock of Common Redpolls. I immediately drove out to the north pier where I saw Mike. He told me the flock had flown off, so we both started searching the beach 11 parking lot area and finally spotted the flock which contained from 50 to 75 Common Redpolls. The flock was very nervous because of the traffic, so they didn't stay put for long before flying off. After a minute or so when the cars had passed they would fly back to the trees and begin feeding. With after much searching through the flock we re-found the bird. I quickly grabbed my camera and took many photographs of the Hoary Redpoll as it fed in the birches.

I recorded the following field marks: The mantle was boldly streaked with white. The white streaks were at least equal in width to the dark streaks. The white at the tips of the tertials were about twice as wide as the white at the tips of the tertials of the Common Redpolls. The side of the face was blushed with buff and the nape was white with very fine dark streaks. The front of the face was flat and the bill was very short and triangular. This made the forehead appear to be very steep. The typical redpoll patch was on the forehead as was the dark patch on the chin. The red patch on the forehead appeared to be somewhat smaller than the red patches on the nearby Common Redpolls. The upper breast showed the slightest pink flush, which was evident in the photographs, but was difficult to see in the field. There were few streaks on the flanks and they were quite thin compared to the Common Redpolls. The belly and undertail coverts were completely un-streaked. The rump was unmarked white with perhaps some small flecks. The general size and shape of the Hoary Redpoll was similar to the accompanying Common Redpolls, though they had longer bills and shallower foreheads. The pale streaking on the mantle of the Common Redpolls were buffy, not white, and appeared to be about a quarter of the width of the dark streaks. The heavier dark streaking gave their mantles an overall darker look than the Hoary Redpolls mantle. The Common Redpolls also had varying amounts of streaking on the undertail coverts and rumps. The overall pale or frosty appearance, the flat-faced profile, and the stubbier bill stood out most of all in separating it from the Common Redpolls.

This is the fourth Hoary Redpoll I have identified. I have observed thousands of Common Redpolls, which has given me the opportunity to see the many individual variations.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Hoary Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*
 Date of Sighting: 17 January 2011 to 22 January 2011
 County : ERIE
 Location : PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK
 Observer(s): Jason Berry, Mike Weible, Jerry McWilliams
 Date of Submission: 2011
 Submitted by: Jason Berry, Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes Photo: Yes Specimen: No Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. DeReamus	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
C. Rutt	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 8/2/11