

Submission Date	2013-02-11 20:02:51
Observer's Name	James Hausman III
E-mail	englishhaus@gmail.com
Observer's Address	Street Address: 300 Rainbow Drive City: Jefferson Hills State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15057 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Robert Mulvihill, David Yeane
Species (Common Name)	Hoary Redpoll
Species (Scientific Name)	Acanthis homemanni
Number of individuals	1
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult female due to the lack of red on the breast
Observation Date and Time	01-19-2013 9:00 AM
County	Forest
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Marienville
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Yeane Residence
GPS coordinates of sighting	41.4703869,-79.1222899
Habitat	Residential yard with shrubs, trees (maples, arbor vitae, norway spruce), and several brush piles made from fallen tree material.
Distance to bird	~20'
Viewing conditions	Clear, sunny and cold (~18°F). Our backs were to the East thus frontlighting the birds we saw.
Optical equipment used	Nikon Monarch 7 8x42
Description	Bob spotted a "frosty" looking redpoll and directed Mr. Yeane's and my attention to it. I was in a better position to view and note the details of the bird and recorded the following information. This bird was conspicuously lighter and whiter than the other redpolls it was with. The bird was above us and straight on in exceptional light, so although I was not able to see its rump to check for streaking there, the

bird had no visible streaking on its undertail coverts, and the minute streaking it did have on its flanks was very faint to the point of near nonexistence. In profile, the bird's bill looked like a stubby party hat, much more conical and closer to the face than the other nearby redpolls. Compared to the other nearby redpolls in the same tree, this bird appeared slightly larger and thicker overall through the body. The bird had very pale, whitish scapulars. Also, I was able to clearly see a fluffy tuft above the bird's beak. This bird's black chin-patch also appeared to descend further down, covering the upper part of the throat. Using Sibley's Redpoll Index (<http://www.sibleyguides.com/2008/01/a-character-index-for-redpoll-identification/>), I scored this bird a 16-17 and I am confident this bird was a HORE, a lifer for Bob, Mr. Yeane, and me. Unfortunately, the bird flew off with the other redpolls, and while several redpolls returned during our stay, we were not able to relocate the HORE.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

The bird in question flew into a maple tree ~15-20' away from us and proceeded to remain perched for about 20 seconds before turning its head from side-to-side every few seconds for about another 20 seconds. Finally, the bird began to preen for another 20 seconds or so before flying off due East. It did not return during our stay. All told, I was able to view the bird in perfect lighting for little over a minute without the bird moving from branch to branch thus providing me with an excellent opportunity to note the particulars of this individual.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

This bird was clearly whiter/paler and thicker overall than other birds on nearby twigs. There was almost no visible streaking on this birds flanks and undertail coverts unlike the many other redpolls we viewed that morning who were darker, with definitively dark and heavy streaking along the flanks. Also, this bird's scapulars were near white unlike the other redpolls whose scapulars were clearly brownish overall

Discussion - anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

I spotted the bird with an unobstructed view in near perfect lighting and noted my observations to two veteran birders who verified that my observations were consistent with HORE. I am aware of the gravity of my claim and of the integrity expected of birders when making such claims; I am confident that I saw a HORE given what I observed and duly noted and then cross-referenced intensely post observation. I would not claim to have seen this species unless I believed beyond a shadow of doubt that what I observed was a HORE. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes, having seen more than 20 CORE that morning, when the HORE appeared in the maple and with other CORE near it, I can confidently claim this bird was a HORE given its uniquely different appearance as noted.

During

As I related details to Bob, he confirmed that my observations were consistent with HORE.

After

I checked my field notes against several field guides including the following: Nat Geo FGtBNA, 6th ed., Sibley Guide to Birds, Peterson FGtBNA, Kaufman's FG to Advanced Birding, Birds of PA, online Sibley Redpoll index

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Drawing

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[HORE_sketch.png](#)

Click to edit

PORC-webform00107

HORE - Yeanny Residence
Jan. 19, 2013

red
/

flattish forehead

very conical "party hat"
bill

very pale
scapulars

very faint, near
non-existent
streaking on
flanks

Whitish breast/
no streaking

White belly
w/ no
streaking

~~Y3~~
Y3

no visible streaking
on undertail
coverts

