

## Rare Bird Form

56-93-22

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- New State Record-----  
- X - Rare bird in CO  
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Purple Finch  
(Species)-----  
Carpodacus purpureus  
(Scientific name)  
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## Date(s):

February 20, 1993 2:15-2:30 PM 15 minutes  
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## Locality:

Red Creek Road, Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado.

Nearest town, county and state)  
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## Optical equipment:

10X40 BAUSCH & LOMB Custom Binoculars  
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If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Not photographed.  
-----Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: female Plumage: adult  
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## Light Conditions:

excellent, sunny  
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Distance from bird and how measured:

7-20 feet guessed  
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## Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Lindsay and I observed a female finch in cedar trees just on the west side of Red Creek Road, the bird was with several Mountain Chickadees. We got out of the car and noticed five more finches. 3 female and 2 male Cassin's Finches were with the female Purple Finch. Also a Northern Mockingbird flew out of the cedar tree where the finches were in. We watched the Purple Finch in the cedar trees flying to several cedar trees for 15 minutes until it flew away to the west.  
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## Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

The bird was seen off a dirt road in between Pueblo and Beulah on Red Creek Road, in cedar trees.  
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Other observers who independently identified the bird  
(Please list names and address):

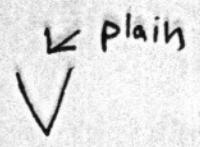
Lindsay Lilly 55 Posada Drive Pueblo Co.

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. The field marks used to identify the bird. Include Size, overall shape, plumage, and color pattern; details on shape of bill, wings, and tail.:

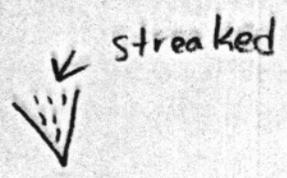
I identified the bird by it's unstreaked undertail coverts, by it's finch size and shape. Also by dark brown ear patch.

The birds size was around 6 inches, not much difference in size with Cassin's Finch and about an inches larger then the Mountain Chickadees around it. The overall shape was typical finch shaped like Cassin's Finch. The bird was in adult female plumage. the color pattern was brown with white streaks all over. The beak was two toned. The <sup>upper</sup> ~~lower~~ mandible was lighter then upper mandible. Brownish on upper and yellowish on lower. The eye was dark. The heed was brown with fine streaks from the beak to the nape. Their was an distinct eyebrow stripe which was off white with small brown lines. The earpatch was distinct because it was dark brown. The area between the throat and earpatch on both sides of the face was off white color with brown streaks. The throat was off white and plain. The back was streaked brown with white going down the back to the upper tail covert area. the wings had two small and not very distinctive wing bars. The upper tail coverts were brown with a little white going cross ways. The tail was brown with small white. The tail was notched. The flanks, belly and front was all off white in color with heavily brown streaks. The undertail coverts were plain with not markings. The legs on the bird were brownish going into a dull yellow brown color in the feet. The shape of the bill was finch or seed eating type, and beak was not as pointed as the Cassin's Finches next to it. The wings were typical finch shaped. The tail was notched look at drawing.

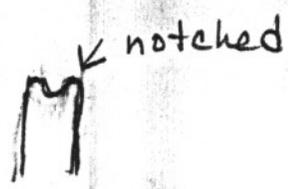
Undertail Coverts (Purple Finch)



Undertail Coverts (Cassin's Finch)



Tail Shape (Purple Finch)



Describe the bird's calls or sounds if heard:  
The bird gave a chur-lee in musical fashion.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:  
Cassin's Finch: They have streaked undertail coverts and streaked throat and less distinct of an earpatch.  
House Finch: They are very thin compared to Cassin's and Purple Finch. And all above reasons under Cassin's Finch.  
Common Rosefinch: They are smaller and have yellow on both upper and lower mandible.

Prior experience with this and similar species:  
Purple Finch: I've seen less than 10 in Colorado.  
Cassin's Finch: I've seen many hundred in Colorado.  
House Finch: I've seen several thousand in Colorado and Arizona.  
Common Rosefinch: I've never seen one.

Field Guides used to determine sighting:  
National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America.

Comments by Brandon Percival: I think that the CFO Record Committee should think about removing the U for Unusual in the State for this species.

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ after ; from memory \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: Brandon K. Percival  
Mailing address: 835 Harmony Dr.  
Pueblo West, Colorado 81007-2604  
(719)-547-3722

Signature: *Brandon K. Percival*

Return form to: CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator-Dept. of Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205