

CBRC FILE #:

2003-90

A

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

rec'd 12/19/03

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

RESULTS: 2003-90

Species: (Common Name) Purple Finch

(Scientific Name) *Carpodacus purpureus*

Date(s) of occurrence: 12-12-03

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: ?

Plumage: Female or immature male

Exact location: Little Graneros Creek at Greenhorn Drive Crossing

County: Pueblo

Nearest town: Rye

Elevation: 7000 feet

Length of observation: 3 minutes

Time(s) of observation: 9:30-9:33 AM

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: None

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): None

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Clear skies-bird ~~east~~ south west of observer in good light

Optical equipment used: 10 x 40 Zeiss binocular

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 30 feet

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? No

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Dense riparian habitat of willow, cottonwood, aspen, near horse corrals

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: This bird was first observed with a flock of 7-8 Cassin's Finches & possibly one adult male Purple Finch. A passing noisy diesel truck scared off all the finches but one finch, which flew into the riparian creek area about 30 feet from me. This bird cooperatively perched atop some brush before diving into dense thickets to feed where it was harder to see.

DESCRIPTION -- **This is the most important part of this report.** Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird a give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. This bird was about the size of nearby Cassin's Finches except it had a much shorter tail and looked stockier. The tail barely extended beyond folded wings, when perched. It had brown upperparts and white underparts. Face had broad distinct white supercilium and malar stripe much more distinctly white than Cassin's Finch. I noticed no discernible eye ring on this bird. Breast was heavily spotted (not finely streaked like Cassin's) and belly was so white except for diffuse spotting on flanks. Undertail coverts were white. Bill was conical shape and light with dark tip, something I've noticed on many Purple Finches and not mentioned in field guides. Cassin's Finches usually appear to me to have darker bills. Another point not mentioned in field guides which I've noticed on many Purple Finches (including this one) is that the forehead is more at a right angle to its beak whereas Cassin's Finches have a straighter line from forehead to beak.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: None heard distinctly

SIMILAR SPECIES -- **This is another critical part of your report.** Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Immature & female Cassin's Finches have less distinct white supercilium and malar stripe, streaking is finer than on Purple Finch and extends further down belly into under tail coverts. Cassin's Finches have longer tails giving bird a slimmer, less stockier appearance than Purple Finch.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen many Cassin's & Purple Finches in many states

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation) Sibley GUIDE TO BIRDS (2000) confirmed my belief that the bird I saw was a Purple Finch.

This report was made from (check one) notes made during observation notes made after observation later from memory

Date and time of written report: 12-16-03 9:30 AM

Reporting observer: David Silverman

Signature: David Silverman

Reporting observer's address: P.O. Box 362

City: Rye

State: CO

Zip: 81069

Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601