

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Animal Abstract

Element Code: ABPBY03010

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Pinicola enucleator* (Linnaeus)

COMMON NAME: Pine Grosbeak, American Pine Grosbeak, California Pine Grosbeak, Canadian Pine Grosbeak, Pine Bullfinch, Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeak, Mope

SYNONYMS: *Loxia enucleator* Linnaeus

FAMILY: Fringilidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: *Loxia enucleator*, Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 171.

TYPE LOCALITY: “in Sueciae summae, Canadae Pinetis = Sweden.”

TYPE SPECIMEN: Holotype of full species unknown. Holotype of subspecies *P. e. montana* (which occurs in Arizona): USNM 159689 (adult female). F.H. Knowlton, 28 Jul 1890. In Ridgway, Auk 15(4): 319, October 1898.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are nine subspecies throughout its range with five breeding in North America and 1 casual vagrant (*P. e. montana*) in Arizona.

DESCRIPTION: The Pine Grosbeak is 8-10 inches (20-25 cm) long with a wingspan of 14-15 inches (35-38 cm), and is the largest of grosbeaks with a dark heavy conical bill and a lightly forked tail. This species geographically varies in body size, plumage color and bill size. There are also differences between the sexes. Males: pinkish-red head, breast, back and rump; streaked back; white under tail coverts; black wings and tail; white wing bars and tertial edges. Females: yellowish-olive head and rump; gray under parts and back; black wings and tail; white wing bars and tertial edges. They have a distinctive call often given in flight.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: The Pine Grosbeak is separable from similar species (finches, crossbills) by its larger size, longer tail and distinctive call notes.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

- Color photo of egg (Baicich 1997, Pl. 63)
- Color drawing (National Geographic 1999)
- Color drawing (Sibley, 2000)

TOTAL RANGE: Breeds: Western Alaska east across northern Canada to Newfoundland and south to central California, Arizona, northern New Mexico, northern Alberta, central Manitoba, northern Great Lakes region, central Maine and Nova Scotia. Winters from

western Alaska, southern Yukon, southern Mackenzie and southern Canada south through breeding range.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: White Mountains, Apache County; north Kaibab Plateau and Oak Creek Canyon, and possibly the San Francisco Peaks, Coconino County.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: A gregarious species that gather in flocks of up to 100 birds at times. Pine Grosbeaks move southward only in times of food scarcity, not, as commonly thought, due to severe climatic conditions. Pine Grosbeaks are ridiculously tame and approachable in winter. They bath in soft snow. *Pinicola enucleator* is strongly territorial during breeding season. Males appear to defend territories of about 400m in diameter by singing from tops of conifers. Medium-sized hawks and falcons presumably predate them. Pine Grosbeaks aggressively attacks such potential nest predators as Siberian and Gray Jays, Hooded Crows, Common Raven, and red squirrel.

REPRODUCTION: They nest in trees or shrubs in open coniferous woods, but usually in a birch, spruce, fir, conifer or juniper 6-30 ft. (2-9 m) (usually 2-10 feet up) above the ground. The nest is located in the crotch or on a branch. The male feeds the female as part of the courtship. The female builds the nest. Nest is often bulky, loose, open and made of twigs and roots, lined with grasses, lichens, and rabbits' fur. Nest size is 15-22cm across the outside, 7.2-11.0 cm deep, with the cup being 6.8-7.3 cm across and 2.8-3.8 cm deep. The clutch is laid from May-June with the clutch size being 2-6 (4). The eggs are sub-elliptical, smooth and moderately glossy. They are deep light blue, sparsely spotted or blotched with bold black and purplish-brown spots or small blotches and more profusely marked with pale lilac or purplish speckling or spotting. Often most heavily marked at the larger end. 26x18 mm. Female incubates eggs an average of 13-14 days, only leaving nest to receive food from male. The nestling's mouth is orange with gape flanges pale yellow. Both parents feed them. Nestlings are mostly downless except for a few downy feathers on head and back. Young leave nest about 20 days after hatching.

FOOD HABITS: Feeds on a wide variety of seeds; also eats fruit and insects. They forage in trees, but also take food from the ground. They have gular pouches for extra food.

HABITAT: Open coniferous (less commonly mixed coniferous-deciduous) forest and forest edge; in migration and winter also in deciduous forest, woodland, second growth and shrubbery. They prefer coniferous stands with large trees and low to intermediate canopy cover, usually near and edge.

ELEVATION: 2,000-10,000 ft (610-308 m). Based on records from HDMS (AGFD, unpublished data), elevation in Arizona ranges from 7,140-9,400 ft (2,176-2,865 m).

PLANT COMMUNITY: Spruce-fir forests.

POPULATION TRENDS: Status largely unknown in Arizona. Only known to have nested on the slopes of Mount Baldy in the White Mountains, but may also breed in other boreal forest habitats (AGFD, 1996 in prep).

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None
STATE STATUS: 2 (AGFD, AWCS 2022)
[1B (AGFD, SWAP 2012)]
[WSC (AGFD, WSCA 1996 in prep)]
[Candidate (AGFD, TNW 1988)]
OTHER STATUS: None

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Wildfires that remove over-story of cone-producing trees and logging operations that remove mature trees are major factors that affect the Pine Grosbeak.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: The impacts of various timber harvest and management practices on grosbeak habitat requirements and nesting success need to be determined. Also important breeding areas need to be monitored to ensure the long-term stability of populations. Natural history information is lacking and studies need to be performed to determine habitat, foraging needs and breeding chronology.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: BIA - Fort Apache Reservation; USFS – Coconino, Apache-Sitgreaves, and Kaibab National Forests.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Some other species that may use similar habitat components or respond positively to management for Pine Grosbeaks are: Northern Saw-whet Owl, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin.

Revised: 1982-10- (AZNHP)
1995-07-10 (DBI)
2003-03-15 (AMS)
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