NAME OF SPECIES: Carpodacus mexicanus	
Synonyms:	
Common Name: House finch, California linnet	
A. CURRENT STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION	
I. In Wisconsin?	1. YES X NO ☐
	2. Abundance: Common breeding resident throughout WI (19).
	3. Geographic Range: This species can be found throughout the state, especially around urban and suburban areas.
	4. Habitat Invaded: This species invades urban and suburban habitats (1, 3, 5). This species prefer areas with buildings, lawns, and bird feeders (3, 5). Disturbed Areas X Undisturbed Areas ☐
	5. Historical Status and Rate of Spread in Wisconsin: Released on Long Island, New York in early 1940's. Species then spread throughout the eastern US and into WI by the 1970s (3, 19). According the Breeding Bird Survey this species is still increasing in the US (16).
	6. Proportion of potential range occupied: Species is absent or patchily distributed in sparsely populated and heavily wooded areas of northern WI, yet populations have colonized most larger communities. Breeding has yet to be confirmed in either Iron or Menominee County (19). Species was recorded in 60% of Breeding Bird Atlas quads (19).
	7. Survival and Reproduction: Survival of house finches is higher when winters are mild.
II. Invasive in Similar Climate Zones	1. YES X NO ☐ Where (include trends): This species can be found in eastern US and soutern Canada. House finches are invasive in the northern and western areas of the US (1,2, 3). In the eastern US this species dropped 50 % in the last decade due to the house finch eye disease (*Mycoplasmal conjuctivitis)* (3, 4).
III. Invasive in Similar Habitat Types	1. Upland ☐ Wetland ☐ Dune ☐ Prairie ☐ Aquatic ☐ Forest X Grassland ☐ Bog ☐ Fen ☐ Swamp ☐ Marsh ☐ Lake ☐ Stream ☐ Other: X Urban and suburban areas (1, 3, 5). Benefits from human development (13).
IV. Habitat Affected	1. Where does this invasive resided: Edge species X Interior species
	2. Conservation significance of threatened habitats: This species does not inhabit threatened areas.
V. Native Habitat	1. List countries and native habitat types: Native of southwestern United States and Mexico (3). Habitat in native range is open conifer forests, desert chaparral, oak savanna, and riparian areas (3, 5).
VI. Legal Classification	1. Listed by government entities? Listed on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. (18).
	2. Illegal to sell? YES X NO ☐ Notes: Since this species is listed on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and it cannot be sold.

B. ESTABLISHMENT POTENTIAL AND LIFE HISTORY TRAITS	
I. Life History	1. Type of Animal: Mammal ☐ Bird X Reptile ☐ Amphibian ☐ Fish ☐
	2. Age of Maturity or time to self sufficiency: This species will fledge at 12-19 days (5). The male will feed the chicks while the female lays a new clutch of eggs (5). The old chicks will become self-sufficient when the next clutch of eggs hatches. Time to maturity is 1 year (5). Males obtain their colors by fall (5).
	3. Gestation Period: Eggs have a 12-17 day incubation period (5).
	4. Mating System: Polygamous ☐ Polyandrous ☐ Monogamous X Notes:
	5. Breeding/ Breeding period: Breeding occurs between March and August (5). Clutch sizes range up to 6 eggs (1, 3, 5). A single female can have up to 6 broods/breeding season (5), most likely 4 broods/year in WI (19).
	6. Hybridization potential: Finches are known to hybridize with other finch species, i.e. – house finch x goldfinch (6).
II. Climate	1. Climate restrictions: House finches can be found in almost any area, but they prefer areas with warmer winters (7).
	2. Effects of potential climate change: Climate change will warm the United States, and this could potentially increase the range of house finches (7). Climate change may increase the abundance of house finches (7).
III. Dispersal Potential	1. Pathways - Please check all that apply: Unintentional: Bird ☐ Animal ☐ Vehicles/Human ☐ Wind ☐ Water ☐ Other: Intentional: Ornamental ☐ Forage/Erosion control ☐ Medicine/Food: Recreational ☐ Other: X This species was released on Long Island, New York in 1940 (3).
	2. Distinguishing characteristics that aid in its survival and/or inhibit its control: House finches are very adaptable to human-altered habitats (5) and benefit from human development (13). Strong dispersal of young birds from their natal areas (19).
IV. Ability to go Undetected	1. HIGH ☐ MEDIUM ☐ LOW X This species is often confused with the purple finch. This species is found around humans and feeds readily at birdfeeders.
C. DAMAGE POTENTIAL	
I. Competitive Ability	1. Presence of Natural Enemies: House finches have many predators, including cats, hawks, blue jays, skunks, raccoons, and squirrels (5).

	2. Competition with native species: This species competes with native and non-native species. One study stated that house finches negatively influence the abundance of house sparrows (12). Another study found that house sparrows and purple finches declined in areas where house finches were located (7). This study also stated that house finches potentially pushed purple finches to more coniferous stands (7). Another study states the decline of the purple finch in the eastern US can partially be explained by competition with introduced house finches (8). This study also stated that house finches will win nearly all aggressive interactions with purple finches (8). A fourth study, examined encounters between house and purple finches at winter bird feeders in Lynchburg, VA. The study stated that house finches are aggressive and displace purple finches from these feeders (9). The house finch may also compete with purple martins (11). The house finch disease bacteria (*Mycoplama gallisepticum*) can be spread to other birds, mainly the American goldfinch, purple finch, and house sparrow (10). This disease, however, is unlikely to significantly impact the populations of these other species (10).
	2. Rate of Spread: -changes in relative dominance over time: -change in acreage over time: HIGH(1-3 yrs) X MEDIUM (4-6 yrs) ☐ LOW (7-10 yrs) ☐ Notes: Once the population was established in New York, this species spread fast. This species spread across the eastern United States in 50 years (3).
II. Environmental Effects	1. Alteration of ecosystem/community composition? YES ☐ NO X Notes:
	2. Alteration of ecosystem/community structure? YES ☐ NO X Notes:
	3. Alteration of ecosystem/community functions and processes? YES ☐ NO X Notes:
	4. Exhibit Parasitism? YES ☐ NO X Notes:
D. SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS	
I. Positive Aspects of the Species to the Economy/Society:	Notes: Individuals enjoy watching these birds.
II. Potential Socio-Economic Effects of Requiring Controls: Positive: Negative:	Notes: House finches peck and feed on practically all fruits, berries, grains, and vegetable and flower seeds (13, 14). Requiring controls will limit the population, thus limiting agricultural damage. Many people enjoy viewing these birds and might be upset about the demise of this species.
III. Direct and Indirect Socio-Economic Effects of the Animal :	Notes: This animal directly eats and pecks a vast assortment of agricultural crops, resulting in lost money.
IV. Increased Costs to Sectors	Notes: Agricultural damage

Caused by the Animal:	
V. Effects on Human Health:	Notes: n/a
VI. Potential Socio-Economic Effects of Restricting Use:	Positive: Less crop damage Negative: Public outcry over control.
E. CONTROL AND PREVENTION	
I. Costs of Prevention (please be as specific as possible):	Notes: Removal of favorable nesting and roosting cover can prevent the invasion of house finches13, 14). This can be costly and labor intensive on a large scale. Shooting these animals has limited effectiveness (13). One effective way to trap house finches is with a modified Australian crow trap (14). This would probably be the cheapest way, as traps can be set and checked at a later date.
II. Responsiveness to Prevention Efforts:	Notes: Trapping house finches is probably the most logical choice because clearing away nesting sites will only result in the birds moving elsewhere and not really solve the problem.
III. Effective Control tactics:	Mechanical X Biological ☐ Chemical X Times and uses: Exclusion, habitat modification, frightening devices, repellents, trapping, and shooting.
IV. Minimum Effort:	Notes: Trapping on a site-by-site basis requires minimal effort.
V. Costs of Control:	Notes: Undocumented
VI. Cost of Prevention or Control vs. Cost of Allowing Invasion to Occur:	Notes: This species in known to interact with a native species. The other species it interacts with is a non-native and a very aggressive species. The purple finch is declining in areas (17) so it may be important to control this species in those areas. Control costs would be expensive but more testing would have to be done to examine the feasibility of it. Setting a few hundred traps around the city would be easy to do but may cause a huge public outcry.
VII. Non-Target Effects of Control:	Notes: Incidental catch of other birds may occur. Possibility of public outcry about trapping and removing this song bird.
VIII. Efficacy of monitoring:	Notes: The BBS or the CBC are good ways to monitor this population.
IX. Legal and landowner issues:	Notes: Some landowners would not want this species to be removed. Farmers,orchard owners, etc. would likely favor control of this bird. Depredation permits are required from US Fish and Wildlife Service before control activities are initiated (13, 14).

F. REFERENCES :

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