

rec'd 1/5/02

CFO-RC FILE # 2001-137 RESULTS: \_\_\_\_\_ OBSERVER: Coen Dexter  
COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Species: Field Sparrow Spizella Pusilla  
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s) of observation: 9 Jan 1993 Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: ? Plumage: Gray Adult

Exact location: Highline State Park

County: Mesa Near by town: Loma Elevation: 4500'

Length of observation: 20-30 min. Times(s) of observation: 9:30-10:00 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 position): good light - sun behind me

Optical equipment used: 8X30 Swarovski binocs most of the time

Distance from bird(s): 20' to 30' feet

Was bird photographed? NO Were photos submitted? -

Who took the photographs? -

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: The bird was in weeds and brush. At times it would set upon the top of brush and look as if it would fly to the feeder near by but did not while I was present

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification): The bird was with white-crowns and Junco's. Highline State Park had feeders set up and many sparrows were present. The Field Sparrow stayed in the weeds and the brush with Song Sparrows

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) in the general group that you did.

Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. Upon first glance I thought the bird was a Tree Sparrow but the sparrow was quite small when compared to Junco's and white-crowns. The bill was large and totally, very pink-orange. The eyering was white and very bold. The crown was rusty with some rust behind the eye. The rest of the nape, throat and upper chest was warm gray. The tail was medium long and brown with light edging. The wings have two wing bars. The back had streaking. The rest of the underparts were gray buff with no streaking or spotting.

Describe bird's call: None heard

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Tree Sparrows are larger, has two tone bill, has central breast spots. Other Spizella Sparrows do not have rusty color

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I know all Spizella Sparrows very well. I grew up in Nebraska where Field Sparrows are common

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification: I did look at guides later but knew what the bird was almost immediately therefore I was not influenced. The guides help only confirm. the I.D.

This report was made from notes made during X or after X observation, or later from memory X. Date of written report: 25 Nov 01 Signature: Coen Dexter

I received this report from an old report done in 1993. I found the old report in a file of report forms and realized I never sent it through RC. Field Sparrows are casual on the western slope and need to be sent through the process.