

2003-81

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

ACCEPTED

rec'd 11/5/03

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #: 2003-81		
RESULTS: (A)		
Species: (Common Name) Red Fox Sparrow	(Scientific Name) Passerella iliaca iliaca	
Date(s) of occurrence: 10-26-03		
Number of birds seen: 1	Sex: ?	Plumage: Adult
Exact location: Locally known as the "Frog Pond" at northwest end of Terlesa Ave.		
County: Pueblo	Nearest town: Colorado City	Elevation: 6200 feet
Length of observation: 2 minutes	Time(s) of observation: 8:50-8:52 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 sky—bird was northwest of observer in shaded area but light was good.		
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 and marshy pond side habitat		
Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Bird jumped out of dense marsh shrubs loudly chipping and sat amidst shrubs for a couple of minutes continuing to chip loudly. Then it dropped back into shrubs out of sight.		
DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and 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 a large sparrow, larger than most Song Sparrows. It was very rufous overall with contrasting gray face with a narrow rufous post ocular line, which melded into blurry indistinct rufous auricular patch with grayish center. Crown and nape were gray with diffuse blurry indistinct rufous streaking. Back was gray with distinct vertical rufous stripes. Wings were bright rufous with indistinct blurry narrow whitish wing bars. Tail was solid rufous and proportionately shorter than Song Sparrow's. Underparts were white with dense rufous spotting becoming more dense toward upper breast and less dense to absent toward lower belly and undertail coverts. Conical sparrow-shaped bill had dark upper mandible and bright yellow lower mandible with dark tip. I did not see rump and legs well.		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: This bird gave numerous chips as loud as that of a Brown Thrasher, but its chip was huskier and not as sharp as the Thrasher's. It was more similar in tone to a loud Lincoln Sparrow's chip. The sound I heard is best described as a loud "tschyup"!		
SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Reddish Song Sparrows can look similar to red Fox Sparrows but have heavier post ocular lines and usually whiter superciliums and malar stripes giving the face a more defined striped patterned look than Fox Sparrow. Song Sparrows lack extensive bright yellow in bill and have a sharper barking call note chip than Fox Sparrow.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen many reddish Song Sparrows and red Fox Sparrows.		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): Sibley Guide to Birds—National Geographic Guide, 3 rd edition—Rising. 1996. Sparrows of the U.S. & Canada. I identified this bird as a Fox Sparrow before consulting these guides about 2 hours later. The guides confirmed rather than influenced my observation.		
This report was made from (check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> notes made during observation <input type="checkbox"/> notes made after observation <input type="checkbox"/> later from memory.		
Date and time of written report: 6 pm 10-27-03		
Reporting observer: David Silverman	Signature: David Silverman	
Reporting observer's address: P.O. Box 362		
City: Rye	State: CO	Zip: 81069