

Species: GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

Zonotrichia atricapilla

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): October 10, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 1:00 P.M.

to 1:01 P.M.

Locality: West Animas Valley - 8 mi. N. of Durango.

Nearest Town: Durango, Colo.

County: La Plata

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

NONE

Optical Equipment: Bushnell Insta-focus 7x35

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Fall sun - good illumination of area.

Distance from bird (how measured): 24' - measured with yardstick

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: unk. Plumage: Adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Bird was feeding on ground underneath feeders with white-crowned sparrows and juncos. Nothing outstanding about its behavior.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Bird was the size and shape of adjacent white-crowned sparrows, plumage similar to that of white-crowns - grayish neck and underparts and striped brown wings - except head which had definite yellow crown bordered on each side with distinct black lines. Tail relatively long, bill slightly darker than that of white-crown. My particular identifying characteristic was yellow crown with black stripes and similarity of bird to the white-crowns near it.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

Not singing or calling.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: We live in a typical transition zone habitat - Ponderosa Pine, scrub oak and some larger oaks, chokecherry and cottonwood comprise surrounding forest. Animas Ditch flows through our yard approx. 20' from feeder. Yard contains fruit trees, pines and boxelder, mountainside on W. boundary. Feeder located on lawn under apple tree with pear and weeping willow close by.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

I watched bird from bedroom window through binoculars. White-crowns and bird in question were feeding side by side. Former have entirely different head coloring.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have been familiar with white-crowned sparrows for many years - and with the white-throat from my early years in upstate New York and at Cornell University's Ornithology Dept. where I was a student.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

I consulted the Peterson Field Guide to Western Birds for verification of identifying characteristics.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after ☒ observation; from memory _____

PRINT NAME: Gloria J. Childress SIGNATURE: Gloria J. Childress DATE: 11-1-74

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