

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Golden-crowned Sparrow | Zonotrichia atricapilla
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 2 January 1982Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: 1st basicLocality: Tamarack Ranch Elevation: Nearest town: Crook County: Logan Co.Time(s) observed: ~ 0900-1000Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): on and off for about 45 min.Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
Mark Holmgren

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
variable; sometimes in open with sun from behind or from side of observer; usually in shade.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 x 50 binocularsDistance, and how measured: estimated minimum distance: 10'If photographed, type of equipment and film: Who else photographed the bird?

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Usually in the densest and lowest parts of a Russian Olive-juniper shelterbelt; moved through shelterbelt quietly and inconspicuously. Occasionally, it perched in a rather open area of the Russian Olives up to 15' off the ground; also seen for a few minutes in an adjacent weed patch, even there remaining in the densest part for most of the time, only once perching fully in the open. It was observed in a small flock of White-crowned Sparrows that also contained 2 Harris' and 1 White-throated.

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

Description (continued):

Head and neck: face mostly uniform gray with little pattern except on the crown; a dark-gray stripe on side of crown going from bill to occiput; fore part of crown (area between the crown stripes) dull gold-yellow; middle and rear crown grayish-white.

Bill: typical Zonotrichia size and shaped-bill; grayish.

Legs and feet: not recorded.

Upperparts: back brown with dusky streaking; wings brown with 2 white wingbars

Underparts: throat, breast and belly mostly grayish, somewhat lighter on belly and buffy on the flanks.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

None heard

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Russian Olive-juniper shelterbelts adjacent to riparian woods on north, weedy and/or fallow fields on west and east, and prairie on south.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

White-crowned Sparrow - orange or pink bill, less grayish underparts, head stripes redder, no yellow on crown

White-throated Sparrow - usually some semblance of white throat patch, strongly superciliary stripe and yellow in the lores

House Sparrow - chunkier, no yellow on crown, different habitat

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Have seen many White-crowned and also some White-throated Sparrow in Colorado;
have seen many Golden-crowned Sparrows in California and 1 in Colorado.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: standard references

This report was written from reports made during x, after observation _____ from memory _____

Date and time report was written: 7 February 1982

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews Signature: Robert Andrews

Address: 3260 W. 14th Ave., # 144, Denver, Colorado 80204

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
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DENVER, CO 80205