

Rare Bird Report

Pinda Woodward

6/19/93

1. Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)
2. Dates: May 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 1993
3. Location: Willow Springs Ranch 16490 W. Bellevue Ave
Morrison, Co. 80465 closest cross street - Bellevue Ave/
Willow Springs Road. County: Jefferson
4. 1 Bird - appeared to be adult in breeding plumage
5. Time of observation: 5/1/93 10:30 AM + 3:30 PM - subsequent
times were not kept - bird was seen usually early morning
and late evening.
6. Weather I didn't remember to record ☺
7. Habitat - foothills SMM - specifically seen ^{under} feeder
situated over wild plum bush
8. Optical Equipment - Bausch + Lomb Elites 8X42
Spotting scope - Bushnell Spacemaster
9. Other observers saw bird - but because I called them - they
didn't ID bird on their own. (Names furnished if needed)
10. Distance from bird - 30 ft. - measured off my porch.
11. Bird/sun orientation - sunlit not a factor - I observed
the bird many times - at all times during the day.
12. Behavior - Bird was eating millet seed on the
ground under a feeder, bird always was in company
of flock of white-crowned sparrows. Bird came
in frequently and could be seen through-out
the days for the period of time it was here. Fed +
acted very similarly to the white crowned sparrows
it was always with.
13. General description: My attention was captured while
watching the white crown sparrows - the crown was different.

The bird was the size of white crowned sparrow, the crown was yellow with large black stripes running from beak to back of the head. 2 white wing bars were present. Breast was clear, also there was a gray stripe on the back of the head under the yellow crown (the black stripe did not continue around the back of the head) Rest of the head was gray under the eyes. The rump was brown the tail dark brown ending in almost black. Legs were reddish, the bill bi colored - black on top, yellow on the lower mandible. (above were observations I took in no order - but as I observed bird + noted how it looked). Overall body was brown with dark streaking, breast lite brown, belly almost white - no streaks.

14. Head very striking - yellow crown, lg black stripe, gray below eyes to ~~throat~~ upper breast.
15. ~~14~~ iris - black? very dark no eye ring no eyebrow
16. seed eating bill upper m - black, lower, yellow
17. bird hopped on ground legs + feet - reddish
18. upper back brown w/ streaks - rump brown upper tail cov - dark brown
19. chin - lite gray, throat, lite gray breast lite brown, sides lite brown, belly changing to white, flanks lite ^{by} vent + under tail coverts, ~~sp~~ brown to lite brown
20. tail - long + very slight fork. no terminal band - held tail similar to white crowned sparrow = up
21. wings - sparrow like - rather short - stubby - 2 wing bars - heavily streaked brown w/ black streaks
22. - no song heard
23. ^{bright} yellow crown and single broad black stripe eliminated white crowned sparrow - no white on head at all. yellow went over whole crown - not just in front of eye like white throated sparrow

24. Previous experience: have seen + heard GC sparrow in California - looked the same except head was lighter here.
25. references: Birds of Colorado - for distribution
Natal Monograph Birds of N. America - to confirm my identification
Peterson Field Guide Western - to confirm my ID.
26. RONDA L. WOODWARD
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Ronda L. Woodward 6/19/93