

ACCEPT 7-0

Unusual Bird Report Form for Christmas Bird Count 1999 - 159

CBC Name (not bird club name): Fort Collins, Colorado CBC Date: 12-19-98

Species (include number, age, sex etc. as appropriate): Golden-crowned Sparrow (one immature)

Observer: Kathy and Steve Martini Other observers who saw bird: Wick Korman and companions, on count day

Description (Describe size, color and pattern above and below, head, bill, tail, wings etc. as needed. Use this space for a drawing if helpful. Include photos if available.):

Typical Zonotrichia sparrow in shape, posture, behavior. The bird is immature, in Basic I plumage. Crown finely streaked, with forecrown (particularly laterally) showing brownish-yellow coloration in most light conditions; in bright sun, yellow is apparent, confined to forecrown. Small patch of darker brown above each eye, and slight malar stripe evident. Culmen darker than balance of bill.

Sounds made, if any: none heard

Several dozen people since count day

Conditions of observation (Time of day, weather, duration of observation, distance to bird, optics used, etc.): Comes to ground feeder every day over 3+ week period, under all weather and light conditions.

Observed through 8X Elite binoculars from house window (5-meter distance).

Behavior and Habitat (What was the bird doing while you watched it? What habitat was it in?): Feeds on millet, usually in the company of 3 white-crowned sparrows, more secretive than the white-crowns, and feeds closer to the brush pile than do the white-crowns.

Similar Species (What similar species might be in your area in winter? How did you eliminate them from consideration?):

none - Distinctive from white-crowns. Captured and banded and photographed on 1-12-99. Photo will be sent later, if desired.

Observed everyday beginning Dec 17, 1998 through present (2-9-99).