

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

Rcd 5/99 wpl

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY)

SPECIES: Golden-Crowned Sparrow Zonotrichia atricapilla
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: April 22, 1999NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: unknown - nondimorphic PLUMAGE: early springEXACT LOCATION: The 100 block of Central Ave. in Dolores, CO.
speciesCOUNTY: Montezuma NEAREST TOWN: in Dolores ELEVATION: about 7,000 ft.LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: A few minutes TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: about 5:00 P.M.OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW THE BIRD(S) WITH YOU: I was alone + just passing through town, but I immediately ^{contacted} a listed ABA member, Cliff Stewart, who works for the Forest Service. I also informed a couple of birders who lived nearby - but as of yet nobody (there in Dolores) else has seen the bird probably. Cliff said he'd call me in Paonia if he did, & he hasn't - aetho IOTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S): was travelling + didn't get home till late
(Cliff's address is P.O. Box 891, Dolores CO, 81323, or you could reach him at the Forest Service on Central Ave there. Sorry I didn't think to take down his phone # from the Dolores book! - or the F.S. #!) So he still couldn't...? last night

LIGHT CONDITIONS (QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION):

Excellent - sun breaking through after a snowy, cloudy dayOPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: Leica 8 by 32 binocs.DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 12-15 ft.?WAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? No IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? —WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? —

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

Was hopping about in Gambel oak/serviceberry shrubland type habitat at the bottom of a steep juniper studded hillside, capped with prominent sandstone rock overhangs. (Cliff's) was a couple feet from the ground on the bare limb of a shrub. Then it flew across the street to a lilac bush behind a tall conifer in a private yard. (At 102 Central)

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

It was just sitting in the bushes, & then it flew fairly quickly across the street. I don't think there were any seed bearing berries on the bush yet, so it probably wasn't feeding at the moment. I don't know if the bird was just a passing migrant or 13 had been wintering over there.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE THE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

the bird was a large Zonotrichia species sparrow of about 7 inches which I at first mistook for a white-crowned sparrow, because of the general shape + size. I wondered why, when seen from the side, the bird appeared to have no black + white stripes. So I kept looking at it + then when it turned to face me the single golden crown, edged with just a tinge of black "was quite prominent. Judging by the relative brightness of it, the bird was already coming into breeding plumage - but the black stripes beneath the gold weren't very marked yet - just kind of dull.

DESCRIBE BIRD'S CALL OR SONG: No call or song.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM: As noted above, there isn't any other bird you'd mix up a Golden Crowned Sparrow with!

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

I have seen the immature + wintering G.C.S. species several times at the Trading Post in Red Rocks Park near Morrison. (For a while there I was listing the bird almost every year). Then, last September, I saw one in excellent breeding plumage at Tule Lake Wildlife Refuge in northern California, - but its LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR SPOSED IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION): Just my standard National Geographic Guide. I also checked Bob Righter's Colorado Birds to determine rarity (or lack of it) on the western slope, distribution maps etc. That's when I decided I'd better

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING _____ OR AFTER ☒ OBSERVATION, report it for the record - whether anybody else ever sees it or not!

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: April 26, 1999

REPORTING OBSERVER: Myriam Ackley

SIGNATURE: Myriam (Myrm) Ackley

OBSERVER ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 1638
Paonia, CO 81428

Tel: 970-527-6689
till May 10th

SEND REPORT TO:

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
c/o BILL LISOWSKY
2919 SILVERPLUME DR.
FT. COLLINS, CO 80526

There have only been about 3 sightings on the western slope!