

ACCEPT 7-0

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

|X|

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

Species: Golden-crowned Sparrow (Zonotrichia altricapilla)
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 1 October 1999Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: immatureLocality: Crow Valley Campground Elevation: 4500'Nearest town: Briggsdale County: WeldTime(s) observed: 10 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 20 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

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

Do not know (Lesovsky & Mannoser tried on 2 Oct and were unsuccessful)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Bird was mostly to the west & north of me, light was from SE

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types):

Distance, and how measured: 10-30 yardsIf photographed, type of equipment and film: Gold 100-print film Tokina 100-300 zoom
on minolta SR-T bodyWho else photographed the bird? —

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

Bird was mostly sitting on edge of plum thicket, southeast side out of the wind, or hiding in thicket. Once seen in sunflower patch presumably eating seeds. Loosely with white-crowned sparrow flock but did not follow them everywhere they went.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 observed in the field: Large mostly brown-gray sparrow with long tail, moderate pale eye-ring. Did not have pale eyebrow line. Bill somewhat bicolored, I believe with lower mandible darker. Did not have flattened crown or "flat top" look. Blackish whisker mark extending downward on plain face from base of bill. Forehead distinctly golden-yellow, but only obvious when bird faced observer. Undersides

Description (continued):

pale white-gray, unstriped. Did not note leg color. wings brown-gray with two moderately conspicuous wingbars.

(see photos)

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

Could not really separate its call from dozens of nearby white-crowned sparrows.

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

Plum thicket "oasis" in grassland prairie area with nearby brush piles, sunflower patches, Siberian elms and cottonwoods (for the most part).

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

lack of plain face without an eyebrow; flat topped head + gold forehead seemed to eliminate immature white-crown or white-throat. Bird was too big for field sparrow. Did not have reddish bill & black about head one would expect for Harris's.

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

I have seen two other immature Golden-crowns in CO and several in Pac NW. The other sparrows (white-crown, white-throat & Harris) in its genus are very familiar to me. This is the first Golden-crowned sparrow I have ever found myself in CO.

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: 3rd edition Nat'l. Geo., both sparrow id books, Advanced Birding, Peterson

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

Date and time report was written: 10 October 1999

Reporting observer: David Leatherman Signature: David A. Leatherman

Address: 612 Storer St #7 Ft Collins, CO 80524

Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
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Golden-crowned Sparrow (immature)
1 October 1999 Crow Valley Campground
Weld County, Colorado
David Leatherman

1999-161



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