

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X7-0 (A)
Recd 1/29/01 wpl**Species:** Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)**Date:** 30 April 2000**Number seen:** one**Sex:** unknown**Plumage:** adult alternate**Locality:** woodlot near Pritchett**Elevation:** about 4500'**Nearest town:** Pritchett**County:** Baca**Time observed:** afternoon**Duration of observation:** about 3 minutes**Description:**

When I first saw the bird it appeared to be very large for a sparrow (it was foraging by itself, so I could not directly compare it with other sparrow species in the area, but felt that it was definitely *Zonotrichia* size as I had been looking through 10's of White-crowned Sparrows (*Z. leucophrys*) immediately prior to seeing this bird) with unstreaked, medium gray underparts and a dark cap (viewed from the side). The bird turned towards me while foraging (i.e., head was down, so cap was completely visible) and I noticed that the crown was entirely yellow bordered by black on the sides. I focused on the color of the crown and head features, so unfortunately do not have upperparts details, but remember that they were primarily brown with small white streaking. Due to the rarity of this species in Colorado, I left the bird to get other members of the birding group I was with. When we got back the bird was not relocated, although T. Leukering and C. Wood said that they heard a different call that was not immediately identified within a flock of *Z. leucophrys* that were constantly moving and hard to obtain good looks of.

Separation from similar species:

The combination of size (large for a sparrow), underparts coloration (unstreaked medium-gray), and crown pattern (largely yellow centered bordered by black) eliminates all other possible Emberizids.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): None heard by me.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen 100's of this species while living in Alaska and California.

Light conditions: Heavily overcast sky.

Optical equipment used: Zeiss 7x42

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest distance at 30 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: David Hanni

Other observers who saw the bird independently: none that I know of

If photographed, type of equipment and film: I did not photograph

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

Reporting observer: Doug Faulkner

Signature: 

Address: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: This report was written on 5 May 2000 from memory.