

2002-18

(A)

rec'd 2/8/02

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form (Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.) **Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Golden-crowned Sparrow (Scientific Name) *Zonotrichia atricapilla*

Date(s) of occurrence: 1/29/02, 1/31/02

Number of birds seen: one Sex: Unknown Plumage: First winter

Exact location: Along the Piedra River at the Watchable Wildlife Overlook in Navajo State Park on CO 151 ~ 2.2 miles N. of Arboles, CO

County: Archuleta Nearest town: Arboles Elevation: 6,300 ft.

Length of observation: 25 minutes

Time(s) of observation: 2:00 PM on 1/29/02, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM on 1/31/02

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you:

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Light conditions were excellent with the sun directly behind me. It was clear and cold (17 degrees F. @ 11:00 AM).

Optical equipment used: Kowa TSN-2 with 20-60x zoom, Swarovski 7x42 binoculars

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 25 meters was the closest distance.

Was bird(s) photographed? No

If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: The bird was foraging on exposed soil on a south-facing embankment with rabbitbrush at the base of the embankment. The immediate area was in the flood plain of the Piedra River. Cottonwoods & willows were nearby. The adjacent habitat included Pinyon, Juniper and Gambel's oak.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The Golden-crowned Sparrow was in with a flock of about 15 White-crowned Sparrows. The Golden-crowned Sparrow was mainly gleaning seeds from the exposed soil on a south-facing embankment. At times, the sparrow was seen foraging on the rabbitbrush seedheads.

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 important 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 field notes):

The bird had a yellow patch on the forehead. The crown was streaked with brown. At the forehead, the brown streaking formed a thin, lateral stripe on both sides. A small portion of the yellow patch was divided from the central area of yellow by these lateral stripes. The bird had a post-ocular stripe. I did not notice a dark line through the lores. The auricular & supercilium were uniform grayish-brown. The nape and the side of the neck were gray. The upper mandible was dark while the lower mandible was flesh colored. The throat was off-white with a thin, inconspicuous lateral throat-stripe. The chest was dabbled with gray. The flanks were a warm brown. The belly was white. Legs were pinkish. The back was streaked with dark brown and tan. Wings and wing coverts were reddish. Two white wing bars were seen. The rump was brown and the tail a darker brown. I couldn't discern any overall size difference between the White-crowned Sparrows and the Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Describe bird's call or song: No vocalizations were noted.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: At a glance, the White-crowned Sparrows were somewhat similar. The White-crowned Sparrows lack the bright yellow forehead of the Golden-crowned Sparrow. The White-crowned Sparrow has a bright orange bill, whereas, this bird had a dark upper mandible and a flesh-colored lower mandible. The eye-line of the White-crowned Sparrow is very well-defined, whereas, the eye-line of the Golden-crowned Sparrow was less conspicuous.

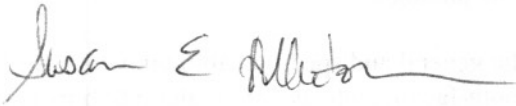
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I've seen adult Golden-crowned Sparrows in California (approximately 4 years ago). This was the first time I had seen a first winter Golden-crowned Sparrow.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

The Sibley Guide to Birds and National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* were consulted. Since I was only familiar with an adult Golden-crowned Sparrow, I needed to consult the field guides to determine if the field marks seen were correct for an immature Golden-crowned Sparrow.

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory.
The report was written from detailed notes made immediately after observation while I warmed up in my car.

Date of written report: 1/31/02

Reporting observer: Susan E. Allerton Signature: 

Reporting Observer's Address: 61 Newland Circle

City: Durango State: Colorado Zip: 81301

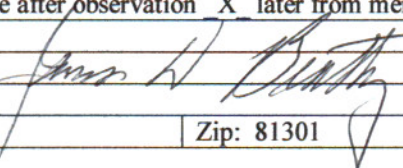
<sallerton@frontier.net>

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee Tony Leukering P.O. Box 660, Brighton, CO 80601

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

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CBRC FILE #: 2002-18		
RESULTS: A		
Species: (Common Name) Golden-crowned sparrow		(Scientific Name) Zonotrichia atricapilla
Date(s) of occurrence: February 2, 2002; previously seen by S. Allerton on January 29 and 31, 2002		
Number of birds seen: One	Sex: Unknown	Plumage: First winter
Exact location: Watachable Wildlife area in Navajo State Park off CR 151 about 2.2 miles east of Arboles, CO		
County: Archuleta	Nearest town: Arboles	Elevation: estimate 6000 ft
Length of observation: 2 minutes and 3 minutes		Time(s) of observation: about 10:30 am and 11:30 am
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Peter Derven		
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Susan Allerton		
Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Good light, thin overcast, sun was behind bird		
Optical equipment used: B&L Elite 10x42		
Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 40 ft and 75 ft		
Was (were) bird(s) photographed? No		If so, are you submitting photos? N/A
Who took the photograph(s)? N/A		
Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Riparian area next to Piedra River. Bird was in mixed sparrow flock (white-crowned and song) feeding mostly in tall rabbitbrush at or near the ground.		
Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Bird and entire sparrow flock were feeding very low in heavy brush. They were difficult to view until alarmed when they perched in low trees for several minutes.		
DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings - folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes. Overall sparrow was rather drab gray including the head. Fore crown was bright yellow. There was a thin black line through the eye and a faint blackish mustachial stripe. Also, sides of crown were slightly darker gray than rest of head. Bill was uniformly gray. Wings were rufous brown and blackish with two distinct and narrow white wingbars. Back was brownish with black stripes and rump was gray. Underparts were dingy gray and undertail coverts were whitish. Throat was light gray.		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Not heard		
SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Most similar species is immature white-crowned sparrow, which this bird was with. I observed this bird sitting along side both adult and first year white-crowned sparrows. Distinguishing features were overall drabness, yellow forehead, gray bill, back striping, and head pattern with faint blackish stripes not brown or brownish.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen golden-crowned sparrows in Alaska and the West Coast. White-crowned sparrow is a very common sparrow in western Colorado.		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): I consulted Sibley after my first viewing of the bird.		
This report was made from (check one) ☐ notes made during observation ☐ notes made after observation ☒ later from memory.		
Date and time of written report: February 3, 2002 at 12:15pm		
Reporting observer: James D. Beatty		Signature: 
Reporting observer's address: 165 Twelve Point Buck Trail		
City: Durango	State: CO	Zip: 81301

Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601