

( Adapted from "The California Rarities Committee," in "California Birds" 2 (4): 109-110, 1971.)

Accepted 9/12/71

1. Species: *Ammodramas bairdii* (Baird's Sparrow) One adult bird.
2. Locality: Less than 2 miles north of intersection of Highways 550 and 62 (near Ridgway, Colorado) and approximately one mile east on the Owl Creek Pass Road.
3. Date: 6 Oct 1973. Time: 3 P.M. (Hour - 15:00)
4. Observers: G. N. Van Essen and Gayle Van Essen
5. Optical Equipment: 7 x 35 Bushnell binoculars
6. Habitat: Pasture land
- Length of time bird observed: Bright, sunny day with sun to our backs. Very good, approx. ten minute look at bird at 20 - 25 yards distance.
8. Description: Two darkish head stripes with fairly wide orange-yellow median stripe. The underparts-throat, breast, and belly were white except for a narrow, streaked breast band. Tail was slightly notched. Bird was with small flock (approx. 6-8) of Vesper Sparrows. This bird was so different that it was studied carefully. The Baird's Sparrow was perching on a fence wire for part of the duration it was seen. The angle of view showing the distinctive coloration of the head and underparts and shape of tail was exceptional.
- Conclusions: The underparts were much more whitish than most other streaked breasted sparrows. The streaks on the breast were confined to a smaller area than other sparrows that could occur in this area. The orange-yellow, wide median stripe through the crown stood out like a neon sign; really separating it from any other streaked, breasted species.
10. Experience: I lived during the Fall migration in Ouray, Colorado in 1968; so quite familiar with usual Fall migrating sparrows. Also, I have birded with Jim Lane ("A Birder's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas" and "A Birder's Guide to Southeastern Arizona") in Arizona and Texas during Spring migration.

MONT ROSE

HIGHWAY 50

accepted JL  
12/16/73

HIGHWAY  
550

550

PASS  
ROAD

OWL CREEK

AREA OF  
BAIRD'S SPARROW

HIGHWAY

62

RIDGWAY

HIGHWAY  
550

OURAY