

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: SNOW BUNTING Plectrophenax nivalis 2. Number: 2
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: Prairie Divide - North of Red Feather Lakes Colo. - 8 miles
4. Date(s): December 21, 1972 - Jan 6, 1973 5. Time bird seen: 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):
Sparrow sized - approximately 6 or 7 in. including Tail. Body full - (Beak - flesh colored + Typically Sparrowlike - thick at base) Plumage - (Back mottled Brown + Black -) (Breast - basically white with Rusty band across front and Rusty wash below wing on the sides) (Head - dark rusty brown across top from beak to back of head. Rusty stripe under eye from beak to behind the eye.) (Wings - upper secondaries white - Primaries - Black with delicate white trim.) (Tail - Black with white trim) (seen close sitting only).
7. Description of voice, if heard: warble-like in flight + when sitting
8. Description of behavior: short hops and stops seemed to be searching for and eating grass seeds.
9. Habitat--general: Open Grassland + Broken Pine Forest
specific: Grassy Slope - small Rocks + pebbles interspersed
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:
Took photographs
11. Distance (how measured?): 18 to 20 feet camera lens measure
12. Optical equipment: 10X Binoculars (Leitz) - Canon Movie Camera 1-2 Zoom (Pentax Spotmatic - 300mm Takumar Lens)
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer): High Speed Ektachrome
Clear Blue Sky - Full Morning light - Sun South East + behind observer - birds in front.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Seen in Yukon in Summer plumage - my first observation in Colorado + winter plumage.
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare? (Have studied books + life Histories
Have studied its pictures + life Histories + Colo. Birds (Bailey) (Am member of Am. Ornith. Union)
16. Other observers:
My Wife Sue
17. Did others agree with your identification?
My wife agreed - photographs were taken - Judge for yourself.
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
None
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: Peterson Western - Birds of Colo. (Bailey) - A.O.U. Check/ist - Audubon Land Bird Guide. (Spoke with Allegra Collier of Longmont) (strengthened Decision)
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

David W. Bolton Street Address: 1254 Carolina Ave
Signature
Date Prepared: Feb. 27, 1973 City and State: Longmont, Colorado, 80501

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)