

## VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: Field Sparrow Spizella pusilla 2. Number: 1  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

3. Location: May-7-1972 Cimarron River, Baca County, Colorado

4. Date(s): May 7, 1972 5. Time bird seen: morning to 30 minutes

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):

Pink bill was first characteristic; the next time we sorted it out from the other sparrows with which it consorted, I saw reddish cap, clear, unstreaked breast.

This time I also saw the pink legs, I believe.

It was located along the river bottom in a weedy area with a few willow bushes, and fed and flew along with a substantial flock of other sparrows, feeding on the ground and occasionally flying into a bush in order to inspect the bird watchers inspecting it.

7. Description of voice, if heard:

none

8. Description of behavior:

above

9. Habitat--general: cottonwood river bottom

specific: weedy patch with scattered willow bushes

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:

Chipping sparrow: dark bill, white eye stripe; Tree: dark bill, stickpin;

Other red-topped sparrows: streaked breasts or dingy colored breasts.

11. Distance (how measured?): 15-30 feet

12. Optical equipment: 7/35 Bushnell

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):  
good

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

New York, Colorado; various

15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?

I don't think it's all ~~that~~ that rare, particularly this spring, since Paul & I saw 5 at

16. Other observers: Bonny the next weekend.

Paul Julian, Lesley Julian

17. Did others agree with your identification?

yes

18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Paul Julian, Lesley Julian

19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation:

Robbins

20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

High Keyery Street Address: 10 Emerson Denver 80218  
Signature

Date Prepared: Jan 21, 1973 City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

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