

File No. 56-74-119

accepted JR 10/18/74

RARE BIRD REPORT.

Field Sparrows

1 Oct. 12, Noon

1 Oct. 13, 8:30 a.m.

Bonny Reservoir, Colo.

Oct. 12 bird: rust-reddish bands on side of crown with grayish face and white eye ring. center of crown also grayish. Pink bill, quite vivid, and pink legs. No marks on head or breast, but breast had vague buffy wash, very vague. Two white wing-bars, forked tail.

Oct. 13 bird: crown rust-reddish with gray central stripe. rust-reddish band through or below eye. Clear face otherwise, except for white eye ring. Clear breast. Bill and legs pink.

Voice not heard.

Both birds feeding beside of road in weeds.

Habitat: weedy brushy areas in cottonwood-lake habitat.

Species eliminated:

Chipping Sparrow has definite eye stripe.

Swamp Sparrow has dirty breast, white throat, stripes on head, different habitat.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow has rounded tail, marks on face.

Tree Sparrow has spot on breast, marks on face.

None of these have pink bill or eye ring.

Distance--10-15 feet.

Light--cloudy bright on Oct. 12, sunny Oct. 13. Birds studied 5 minutes each day in good light.

I've seen Field Sparrows several times at Bonny, in the spring, in more perfect (solid crown) plumage. I've seen all the others frequently, including the Swamp Sparrow the same day.

I don't think Field Sparrows are that rare in extreme e. Colorado that they should be on the report list.

Urling Kingery saw both, and identified both independently. We used Birds of North America, in the field, and confirmed in Bent.

Urling Kingery