

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPER BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

56-90-71

Species: FIELD SPARROW
(Vernacular name)

SPIZELLA PUSILLA
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 11/7 - 11/9 - 11/10/89 Time Bird Seen: 4:20 PM to 4:35 PM FIRST TIME

Locality: SHADOW MTN. VILLAGE (FOREST SERV. WORK CENTER) 3 1/2 MILES SOUTH
OF GRAND LAKE, GRAND CO., COLORADO.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: NONE - SO CLOSE I DIDN'T NEED ANY

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: N/A Plumage: ADULT

Light conditions: BRIGHT SUN WITH PAVEMENT IN BACKGROUND BLACK

Distance from bird, and how measured: 4-6 FT. - ESTIMATE

Describe the bird's overall behavior: SPENT MOST OF THE TIME PICKING SEEDS

FROM PROSTRATE PIGWEED (AMARANTHUS GRACIANS) and Brassica sp. PLANTS.
WOULD FLY OR HOP A short distance (2-4 ft) when approached too closely.
VERY TAME, SEEMED disposed to get food from isolated patches of
open ground. Last seen 300 yds south of first sighting gleaming
seed from open ground after 6" snowfall.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: At 1st sighting was picking
seed from paved road edge + gravel covered weed patches. At 2nd
sighting was picking seed from exposed ground under lodgepole.
Surrounding area all classic lodgepole forest w/ riparian shrubs near
Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address): by

N/A.

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

SIZE - 5 to 6" length. SHAPE - typical spizella, round head, noticeably little taper to nape and from top of head. PLUMAGE - mostly gray to buff on side of head, belly, rump. streaked brown back, wings, tail. obvious full white eye ring. obvious double white wing bars, upper bar slightly lighter. faint darker stripe behind eye. slight buff bar from edge of wing to near middle of breast. brown buff stripe across both sides of head, gray down middle of head. Bill very small, pink. Legs slight and pink colored. TAIL - notched when spread, appears round at end when closed together. long tail in comparison to body size. THROAT - whitish (not bold white) patch to top of breast. Lesser wing coverts brown-gray. Eye black. Rump gray.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

N/A none heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them: AMERICAN SPARROW - field sparrow smaller, no spot on breast. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - field sparrow had pink, small bill; no infras cheek patch. W. CROWNED + W. THROATED - much smaller than both. Hugh, seemed to be a color intergradation between eastern + western color forms of field sparrow. This was most apparent on cheek patch and breast (and/or wash). fine line behind eye bolder than western but not as evident (no black at end) as eastern form. Prior experience with this and similar species: no prior exp. with field sparrow.

• This report was written from notes made during X after X observation; from memory X.

NAME (print): DAVID A. TASPER

Mailing address: Box 28, GRAND LAKE, CO. 80447

Signature: David A. Jasper 2/20/90

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

HUGH E. KINGERY
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206