

Savannah Sparrow
29 Dec 1996
Trautman Res., Marshall Co., IA
Reid Allen-photo
67:62, 82

Record Number: 96-75
Classification: A-P

PHOTOGRAPH

Reid Allen, P-0534 [6/15/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 67:62

Records Committee: IBL 67:82

VOTE: 6 A-P, 1 A-D

A-D, Bird in Marshall County.

A-P, Song and Savannah sparrows are remarkably similar in their markings. Byers et al. 1995 (Sparrows and Buntings) say regarding Song Sparrow, "Juveniles are similar but buffier overall with finer, fainter streaking underneath, lacking the characteristic central spot, and have less distinct head pattern." Melospiza sparrows have long, rounded tails which are often pumped in flight. Passerculus sparrows are fairly small short-tailed sparrows with rounded and proportionally small head. This bird would be easy if the loreal area were yellow, but I am not sure that I can see any yellow. If the tail is small and notched, that would also clearly separate Savannah from Song sparrow. The shape, delicate markings, and apparently short tail suggest Savannah Sparrow to me, but can I be sure?



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