

White-crowned Sparrow
23 Jun 1996
Cedar Rapids, Linn Co., IA
*Rob Bradley
IBL 66:136; 67:82

Record Number: 96-36
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Rob Bradley, 4291 Ridge Road NE, Cedar Rapids 52411 [4/6/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:136
Records Committee: IBL 67:82

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, A very late migrant.

A-D, Adequate description for an extremely unusual date.

A-D, The documenter recognized that 23 June was a very unusual date for this species. He has banded this species and is quite familiar with it. The bird was seen for only 10 seconds, when the black and white facial pattern and gray underparts were noted. Apparently the bird was seen at 20 to 25 feet without binoculars. We don't know what the other two people saw. Summer records from nearby states include 1 from Illinois, 4 from Wisconsin, and 1 from Minnesota. There are a few early June records from Minnesota and Wisconsin, presumably migrants.

A-D, Description eliminates other likely possibilities. There are several summer reports from Nebraska, albeit none documented.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

96-36

What species? White Crowned Sparrow How many? 1

Location? S.W. Side Cedar Rapids - Residence

Type of Habitat? Back Yard with Cedar and Maple trees APPROX

When? date(s): 6-23-96 time: 8:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Who? your name and address: Rob Bradley 4291 Ridge Rd NE

Others with you: Greg Plotz - Dawn Zimpfer

Others before or after you: None

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

The Bird Landed on a wood chip path next to a cedar tree and was seen head on and turned slightly to one side. It stayed pecking at the ground for about 10 seconds. The head had very sharp contrasting black & white stripes. The breast was gray. The bird made no noises. After about 10 seconds it flew through the cedar and over the fence.

Similar species; how eliminated: White throated Sparrow had no white throat and no yellow spot between eye & bill. On the white throats that don't show much, if any yellow, and a very dull white throat, the head is not as distinctly marked with the black & white stripes.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Sun low on horizon. Bird in shady area we were about 20-25 foot away

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have captured and banded many white throats and a fair number of white crowneds in the past 10 years
References and persons consulted before writing description:

None

How long before field notes made? 3 Days this form completed? 3 Days

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).