

American Pipit
23 Feb 1990
Red Rock Res., Marion Co., IA
A. Johnson
IBL 60:53, 62:22

1

Record Number: 90-15
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Ann Johnson

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 60:53
Records Committee: IBL 62:22

VOTE: 3 A-D, 3 NA, 1 no vote

No vote indicated: I could accept this bird as detailed only, not documented. As far as early migration date I feel a single bird could be an overwinter bird. Several pipits have been reported on past Christmas counts.

NA: A bit unfair really as the observer apparently was not intending this to be a complete documentation. The details available were reviewed at request of seasonal field reports editor. Possibility of something like an odd longspur is a reasonable consideration and prevents ready acceptance of record.

A-D: This bird looked, sounded and acted like an American Pipit but from the description given, I cannot say with certainty that it was an American Pipit. Single call note may serve to separate from much rarer Sprague's Pipit. Date is just marginally early, however, and I am inclined to accept.

NA: This record is very possibly correct. I think a big problem here is with the Records Committee lack of direction to observers regarding whether a full documentation should be submitted, or simply details of identification. In spite of this, the bird was not well seen, and there is potential for confusion with other species such as longspurs which would be far more likely this time of year. We should probably take the conservative view on this one.

A-D: Details are sufficient and time frame is not that out of place for a bird, which according to National Geographic, overwinters in central Missouri.

NA: Call not should be a two syllable call not a single note as mentioned in the comments. By the brief description this could possibly be a Vesper Sparrow, which was not eliminated in the comments.

A-D: Adequate details for field reports comment from a good, knowledgeable birder. Whitebreast Rec. Area would be a good pipit area like the beach areas at Saylorville are in migration.

FIELD REPORTS FORM for submitting seasonal observations of Iowa birds

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Winter 1989-90*Other observers:**Reporter:*Ann Johnson
532 120th Ave.
Norwalk, Iowa 50211**SPECIES**
American Pipit**NO.**
1**DATE**
2/23**LOCATION - COMMENTS**Whitebreast R.A., Red Rock Res., Marion
Co., IA (record early?; slender, brown
bird with longish tail, white outer tail
feathers; single call note of loud, sharp,
thin "jeet" given several times in flight;
was unable to locate on the ground as it
kept landing in the grassy areas)