

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Record Number: 94-04

9 Jan 1994

Classification: A-D

5 mi. s. of Oxford, Johnson Co., IA

*Scheib

IBL 64:52; 65:82

DOCUMENTATION

James Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240 [19 Aug 1994]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 64:52

Records Committee: IBL 65:82

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Good description.

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What species? Eurasian Tree Sparrow *How Many?* one

Location: 4296 Black Hawk Ave SW, Oxford, Johnson Co., 5 mi. S. of Oxford I-80 exit

Type of habitat?: Feeder on cedar tree outside farm house

When? Date(s): Sun, Jan. 9, 1994 *time:* 2:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Who? your name and address:

James Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, IA 52240-9148

Others with you: Pat Schnack

Others before or after you: Mrs. Wayne Geyer daily for about two weeks

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A house-sparrow sized sparrow in a flock of about 30 house sparrows frequenting the platform feeder on, and ground under, a large cedar tree in the yard of the Geyer's farm. It had a black foot-ball or oval shaped ear mark totally surrounded by white. Thin white wing bars were barely noticeable. Head was brown to below the eye. Throat was a narrow black beard to just below the neck swivel line. Beak was dark. Partial collar of white extended toward the nape of the neck. Sides were buff. Under parts were lighter with a slight buffy tinge. Undertail coverts were almost white. Even without view of the head, while in the tree, the bird stood out from the house sparrows because of its light underparts and more colorful overall appearance except when viewed totally from the back. Wings and upper back were brown. Tail was dark and unmarked.

Similar species and how eliminated: Easily distinguished from accompanying house sparrows as described above. No other sparrow has a rounded black ear mark completely surrounded by white. Closest might be Lark Sparrow which has a white crown stripe, brown ear mark, white around the eye, and white on the tail.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?

All above named agreed on the identification.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Viewed from west and from north from about 15 to 20 yards from within and outside car using 10x42 binoculars on a sunny day. Bird was seen in the tree and on the platform feeder about five times over 30 minutes.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I had seen numbers of the small flock north of Burlington several times in the last five years.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic field guide was used on the spot to confirm all meaningful characteristics.

How long before field notes made? Notes made at the time.

How long before this form completed? Six hours.

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