

Eurasian Tree Sparrow  
16 Dec 1989  
n. of Burlington, Des Moines Co., IA  
J. Fuller  
IBL 60:54, 61:85

Record Number: 89-60  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Jim Fuller

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 60:54  
Records Committee: IBL 61:85

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D: I personally viewed these birds and agree with document.

A-D: Nice description. Too bad none of the many other observers submitted a documentation.

A-D: Excellent description of a species that should be watched for in this part of the state. Based on numbers, this colony may have been present for some time, and could easily be just one of more in the area. I also saw (but failed to document) several at this location.

A-D: I have seen these birds at the same location.

A-D: Documentation fully describes Eurasian Tree Sparrow at a likely location for it to show up in Iowa. Description eliminates any other similar species.

A-D: Nice description of good birds that many people got to see!

A-D: Adequate description of birds seen by many observers. I have seen photos (submitted for CBC).

89-60

What species? EURASIAN TREE SPARROW How many? 10Location? 23 MILES NORTH OF BURLINGTON (DES MOINES COUNTY)Type of habitat? OPEN COUNTRY, BUT BIRDS IN RURAL RESIDENCE FRONT YARDWhen? date(s): 16 DECEMBER, 1989 time: 1:30 PM to 1:35 PMWho? your name and address: TIM FULLER, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL, RR#6, IOWA CITY, 52240others with you: CHARLES & JANE FULLER

others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

TEN SIMILAR BIRDS WERE SEEN IN THE FRONT YARD OF A RURAL RESIDENCE, AT A FEEDER, AND SITTING IN A SMALL FIR TREE. THERE WERE NUMEROUS HOUSE SPARROWS WITH WHICH TO COMPARE THESE BIRDS. THE TREE SPARROWS APPEARED TO BE SLIGHTLY SMALLER AND MORE SLENDER THAN THE HOUSE SPARROWS. THEY ALSO PRESENTED A MUCH SHARPER APPEARANCE, IN THAT THE VARIOUS AREAS OF BLACK, BROWN, AND WHITE WERE MUCH MORE CLEARLY DEFINED THAN THE MALE HOUSE SPARROWS. THE TREE SPARROWS WERE MORE ANIMATED THAN THE HOUSE SPARROWS. DIFFERENCES IN COLOR PATTERN VERSUS THE HOUSE SPARROW (MALE) A VERY WHITE SIDE OF FACE, WHICH EXTENDED TO THE LEVEL OF THE EYE, WHILE THE HOUSE SPARROW'S WHITE AREA WAS LESS EXTENSIVE, AND DID NOT EXTEND AS HIGH AS THE EYE. THE ENTIRE CROWN AND NAPE OF THE TREE SPARROW WAS A CLEAN BROWN, WHILE THE HOUSE SPARROW HAD A GRAY CROWN. THE BLACK AT THE THROAT WAS MUCH SHARPER AND NOT AS EXTENSIVE ON THE TREE SPARROW. THE FLANKS OF THE TREE SPARROW WERE A LITTLE BRIGHTER BROWNISH COLOR. OTHERWISE, THE BACK, TAIL AND BELLY WERE SIMILARLY COLORED. THE MOST OBVIOUS DIFFERENCE WAS THE BLACK "EAR" IN

Similar species and how eliminated: THE WHITE SIDE OF FACE AREA OF THE TREE SPARROW  
HOUSE SPARROW - AS COMPARED ABOVE

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
VIEWED FROM CAR AT 40-50 FEET WITH 8.5 x 44 SWIFT  
BINOCULARS. MOSTLY OVERCAST MIDDAY.Previous experience with species and similar ones: SEEN AT ST LOUIS, WEST BRANCH  
IOWA, AND WARSAW, ILLINOISReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NATL LEGL.How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATE this form completed? 6 HOURS

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240