

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/20/00

Golden-crowned Sparrow

4 May 1995

e. of Little Wall L., Hamilton Co., IA

*Dorothy Wilcox

P-0459, IBL 65:77, 66:97; Wilcox 1997

Record Number: 95-24

Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATION

Dorothy Wilcox, 3575 Saratoga Ave., Jewell 50130 [*3/24/96]

PHOTOGRAPHS

Dorothy Wilcox, P-0459

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 65:77

Records Committee: IBL 66:97

Wilcox, D. 1997. Golden-crowned Sparrows in Hamilton County.

IBL 67:30.

VOTE: 7 A-P

A-P, One bird would be unusual, but a whole flock!

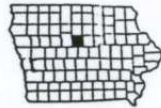
A-P, Great, definitive photos.

A-P, Wow. I like the color copies. Looks like a classic spring Golden-crowned to me.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS IN HAMILTON COUNTY

DOROTHY WILCOX

On the morning of 4 May 1995, while I was watching some sparrows on a platform bird feeder about 12 feet from my kitchen window, I saw a male Golden-crowned Sparrow on the feeder. A closer look revealed that there were two more Golden-crowned Sparrows on the ground under the feeder. I studied the birds closely throughout the day, carefully noting the yellow crown and the distinct black line above and through the dark eye. These sparrows were slightly larger than the White-crowned and White-throated sparrows that accompanied them. They also lacked the white throat patch characteristic of the White-throated Sparrow. There were also several immature sparrows in this flock that I could not positively identify. I was able to take several photographs of these birds at the feeder



These sparrows stayed in my yard for about two weeks, spending most of their time on the feeder, on the ground beneath it, or in several nearby bushes. They fed on black sunflower seeds I provided at the feeder and seemed less aggressive than the House Finches that also fed at the feeder.

Our farm is located east of Little Wall Lake and 2.5 miles southeast of Jewell in Hamilton County. We have a number of trees and shrubs planted around our farmstead that attract a variety of birds. Since they stayed together, I assume that the Golden-crowned Sparrows were migrating with the White-crowned and White-throated sparrows.

This species is normally found along the Pacific Coast in western North America but rarely wanders east during migration. The only previous record for Iowa is one that was caught and banded near Jamaica in Dallas County in 1976 (Burns, *Iowa Bird Life* 47:63, 1977).

3575 Saratoga Avenue, Jewell, IA 50130

I.O.U. BUSINESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tama, 3 November 1996, 10:30 a.m.-2:07 p.m.

Carol Thompson, presiding, Mary Kuhlman, secretary

Present: Ann Barker, Beth Brown, Dan Dorrance, Bud Gode, Matt Kenne, Mary Kuhlman, Pete Petersen, Jim Scheib, Carol Thompson.

Budget: It was moved (Gode, seconded by Brown) to approve the 1997 budget. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Records: No report.

Membership: Beth Brown reported on her continued efforts to get birding information on public radio.

The membership committee is now responsible for the I.O.U. display.

Publications: Ann Barker reported that Harold White is now chairman of this committee.

Library-Historical: It was moved (Barker, seconded by Kenne) to approve Jan Walters, Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter and Sue Spieker for five-year terms on this committee. Motion carried.

Nominating: The following slate of officers was proposed for the spring 1997 election:

Pete Petersen	President
Ann Johnson	Vice President
Carol Thompson	Director

Maridel Johnson Director
Curt Nelson Director

Spring Count: Pete Petersen reported he would like to increase participation.

Field Trips: Carol Thompson reported that Russ Widener, Dick Tetrault, and Carolyn Fischer have been appointed to this committee.

Environmental: No report.

Partners in Flight: Discussed birding area recommendations. Carol Thompson will respond with suggestions.

Educational Booklet: The booklet is nearly completed and will go to the printer in December. The need to promote sales was discussed. Carol Thompson reported that the REAP grant was not received. The I.O.U. had agreed to a \$2000 cash match as part of that grant proposal. Those funds are now freed.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Carol Thompson reported that the book is now at the printer. Discussion ensued on how to facilitate distribution of the books that the I.O.U. is buying for the schools in Iowa.

Birdline: It was moved (Barker, seconded by Gode) to express our gratitude to Jim Fuller by paying the balance of his life membership. Motion carried. A presentation will be made at the spring meeting.

Other Items

Upcoming meetings: The 1997 spring meeting will be in Sioux City on 16-18 May. The fall 1997 meeting will be in Iowa City on 19-21 September.

Feeder Survey: The D.N.R. has ended its involvement with this project. The money that the I.O.U. had previously committed is now freed and will be used to enter the data as per direction of the board. It was moved (Barker, seconded by Gode) to direct the president to appoint an ad hoc committee to determine the future of the feeder survey. Motion carried.

Membership list: It was moved (Brown, seconded by Barker) to publish the membership list in the present format in the summer of 1997. Motion carried.

Expenses	I.O.U. Budget 1997		
		Income	
Publications			
Iowa Bird Life	4,760	Breeding Bird Atlas	1,500
IOU News	1,600	Education	1,000
Committees		Interest	1,750
Breeding Bird Atlas	10,250	Bird Line	150
Education	4,000	Sale of Materials	300
Field Trips	25	Membership	2,565
Library/Historical	25	Contributions	400
Membership	250	Refund (from DNR)	800
Records	400		
Winter Feeder Survey	1,300	Total	\$13,865
Officers			
President	50		
Vice-President	25		
Treasurer	350		
Secretary	25		
Iowa Bird Line	450		
Total	\$23,510		

Note: The expenses for the Breeding Bird Atlas have been planned for and budgeted for several years but those expenses will not be incurred until 1997. Money has been set aside for several years to cover those expenses.

BOOK REVIEW

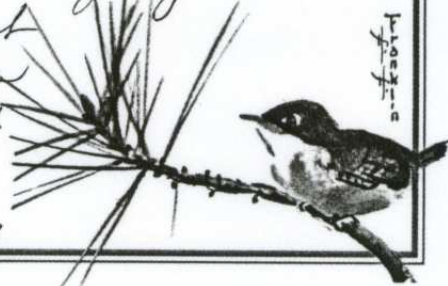
Two field guides to sparrows. After years with no specialized guide to sparrow identification, Iowa birders now have two: *Sparrows and Buntings: A Guide to the Sparrows and Buntings of North America and the World* by Clive Byers, Jon Curson, and Urban Olsson. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1995, 334 pp., \$40 and *A Guide to the Identification and Natural History*

June 26, 95
 Jewell, Ia.

Dear Mr. Dinsmore,

I am sending a photo of a golden-crowned sparrow seen at our feeder the first week of May (95). I believe he came with a flock of white-throated sparrows. There were at least 2 others - possibly some juveniles and/or females also. We live on a farm directly east of Little Wall Lake and would be interested to hear if anyone else in the area had seen these birds. If you have comments or want further information my phone # is 827-5377.

Dorothy Wilcox
 3575 Atratawa Av.
 Jewell, Ia. 50130-7433



What species? Golden Crowned Sparrow How many? 3 (For sure)Location? At platform feeder and on the groundType of habitat? Lg. ^{OAK (Rural)} trees, ShrubsWhen? date(s): May 4, 95 ^{For approximately 2 weeks.} ^{approximate} time: 11 Am to 5 pm Phone 515 227 5377Who? your name and address: Dorothy Wilcox, 3575 Saratoga Ave, Jewell, Iowa 50130others with you: Noneothers before or after you: family, friends

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.

7" Sparrow shaped (the first thing I noticed was the distinct black line above + through the eye, then yellowish crown.) The eye was very black, breast was light brownish-gray with lighted (almost white) throat. It has been 2 months ago that I saw them so I do not remember every detail, they were friendly birds, didn't fight at the feeder and weren't scared away when I watched from the window 15' away. they seemed to stay with the white throat and white crowned sparrows. I was not aware of which voice was theirs.

Similar species and how eliminated: white crowned and white throat, definite difference in eye line and crown.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description: Jim DinsmoreHow long before field notes made? same day this form completed? 2 months

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

95-24



P-0459 Golden-crowned Sparrow
e. of Wall L., Hamilton Co.
8 May 1995 Dorothy Wilcox