

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species WATER PIPIT 2. Number 1
3. Location RURAL POCAHONTAS, IA.
4. Date: 2-27-82 5. Time Bird Seen: 4:00 PM to 4:10 PM
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
1. GENERAL SIZE & COLORATION OF SPARROW.
 2. LIGHT COLOR EYE STRIPE.
 3. VERY LIGHT STREAKING ON BREAST, TENDING TOWARD OUTER EDGES.
 4. WALKED - DID NOT HOP.
 5. WHITE OUTER TAIL FEATHERS.
 6. FREQUENT TAIL BOBBING, SOMETIMES WOULD HOLD TAIL POINTING UP.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD.
8. Description of behavior: EATING SEED FROM GROUND AT BASE OF FEEDER.
9. Habitat - general: RURAL BACK YARD (ABOUT 1 ACRE), YOUNG TREES & SHRUBS, BOUNDED ON THREE SIDES BY 100+ ACRE FIELDS.
specific: BASE OF STONE FIREPLACE WITH FEEDER ON TOP, FIREPLACE IS 6' FROM CONCRETE PATIO IN BACK YARD.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7, & 8.
Explain: VESPER SPARROW. BREAST NOT STREAKED AS HEAVILY AS VESPER SPARROW & WHITE OUTER TAIL FEATHERS MORE PROMINENT THAN ON VESPER SPARROW.
11. Distance (how measured)? 18' EYEBALL. 12. Optical equipment: 10 X BINOCULARS.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
SUN → O BIRD NORTH FULL SUN, CLOUDLESS SKY.
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14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
NONE WITH WATER PIPIT. CONSIDERABLE WITH VESPER SPARROW.
15. Other observers: NONE.
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: NONE.
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: PETERSON'S FIELD GUIDE, CONFIRMED WHAT I OBSERVED.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 HRS.
- Signature: Walter E. Jardine Address: RR 2 BOX 9
- Date: 2-27-82 City, State: POCAHONTAS, IA. 50574