

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Henslow's sparrow 2. Number 3
3. Location Hayden Prairie
4. Date: 5-30-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:30 A.M. to 9:20 A.M.
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) size - faintly small sparrow about same as grasshopper sparrow
  - 2) shape - very ~~chunky~~ chunky - big headed - wide neck - head seems flat topped with not much slope down to bill. - bill is large
  - 3) color - brownish overall - reddish on wings - head is very obviously olive colored. - breast is faintly striped especially across upper part - head has stripe through crown - basic color of breast & belly is white
7. Description of voice, if heard: Best likeness is like book - "ssl-lick" - we always
8. Description of behavior: <sup>use call to locate birds then stalk them down.</sup>
9. Habitat - general: <sup>Singing from higher perch then diving into grass - flies erratically</sup> Faintly wet prairie  
specific: higher part of prairie with taller grass (part that hadn't been burned off)
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Grasshopper sparrow does not have olive head or the call
11. Distance (how measured)? Closest was probably 30'-35'
12. Optical equipment: B&K 7x35s <sup>Plates were also taken with 300 + 400mm lenses</sup>
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
Bright sunny skies - excellent light - best looks were facing east with sun at our backs
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
I have seen Henslow's here many times and am very familiar with the call.
15. Other observers: Francis Moore
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Francis Moore
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description  
Did not need any
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? some day
- Signature: Robert F. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
- Date: 5-30-81 City, State: Waterloo Iowa 50701