

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? American Tree Sparrow How many? 1

Location? Sweet Marsh, Bremer Co., IA

Type of Habitat? marsh

When? date(s): 18 May 1991 time: 10<sup>20</sup> to 10<sup>21</sup>

Who? your name and address: Ann Johnson, 532 120th Ave, Norwalk, IA 50211

Others with you: Beth Brown, Osceola

Others before or after you: unknown

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Initially heard the bird singing a rather musical trill which sounded very familiar to both of us, although neither of us was able to put a name to it. We soon saw the bird singing from the outside branch of a bush about forty feet away. The bird was sparrow size with a rusty cap, an off-white to gray breast which was clear with the exception of one small spot in the middle of the upper breast. The rest of the bird was brown. There were no distinctive markings on the face or on any other visible parts.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Lark Sparrow - no facial pattern; rusty cap

Swamp Sparrow - breast spot

Song Sparrow - no streaking on underparts

Chipping Sparrow - breast spot; song different

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Overcast; viewed at approximately 40 feet through binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Many winters of experience for both of us

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Iowa Birds, National Geographic Field Guide

How long before field notes made? evening this form completed? same evening

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).