

Henslow's Sparrow - 1

May 22, 1988

Lime Creek Nature Center, N. of Mason City.

Description: A small sparrow perched on a dead stem above the surrounding vegetation, throwing its head back periodically to sing a mighty "tsic-up." Bill dull colored + relatively thick, merging into the forehead in a fairly straight line. Crown black w/ narrow light line through center. Face an olive gold, if that's possible, buffier than I expected. Seems 3-eyed since the narrow black line through the eye broadens into a dot at the end of the top of the auriculars. There's a third spot near the back, lower end of the auriculars too. There's a narrow but dark moustache stripe, + another below that, # parallel to it. Throat very white.



Nape patterned like that w/ LeConte's but different color, not conspicuous. Back patterned w/ black + brown, browner than head. Tail + especially wings a very dull brown. Breast with thin equal stripes that end abruptly. Belly light, legs pink.

Situation: Apparently Bob + John Cecil found this bird early in the morning. It was pointed out to us about noon. Initial view was lousy - bird consistently behind weeds. Saw it better after lunch. Used 20x scope. Bird 25 yds. away or less in restored prairie. Lots of people saw it + agreed on ID. Lots of books used. Life bird for me. Cecil's found 2. Report from notes taken at the time.

- Bob Wilson