

Vesper Sparrow - 1 January 5, 1982
5 miles north + 1½ miles west of Hastings, Mills County, Iowa

Description:

Large, plump sparrow. Brown. Breast darker than belly + perhaps streaked. White outer tail feathers.

Behavior:

Feeding in feedlot + manure piles + other stuff sticking out of snow.

Similar species:

A good-size brown sparrow with white outer tail feathers is likely to be a Vesper Sparrow, except in winter. I probably wouldn't call this one if I hadn't seen it better before + after.

Light, time, etc.

Bright sunlight, mid morning. The bird was often N. + NE of me but circled around. ~~30'~~^{30'} at closest, no binoculars.

Barbara L. Wilson
Rt. 1, Box 41
Hastings, Iowa 51540