

What species? Lincoln's Sparrow How many? 4

Location? Des Moines River Bottoms North of Rt. #17 Bridge

Type of Habitat? scrubby fields with variable brush, weeds, thistle, bramble

When? date(s): December 18, 1988 time: 8 A to 12 A

Who? your name and address: Andrew S. Fix 153-C University Village Ames IA

Others with you: Mark Praeschoed

Others before or after you: —

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.

2 groups of 2 birds seen; 1 set of 2 at about 8:30 AM just north of 17 bridge, second set of 2 seen at about 11:30 just south of 210 Bridge at Madrid

All 4 individuals fit the following description:  
sparrows with fine breast streaks on a buffy breast with a central spot  
tails fairly short and birds acted somewhat alert;  
belly pale and unstreaked; buffy breast; faint eye ring

→ Song sparrows: These birds (Lincoln's sparrows) were smaller and had shorter tails than song sparrows, lacked central spot, and had buffy breasts, also flight was not the characteristic pumping flight of song sparrow

Similar species; how eliminated:

↓  
Swamp sparrow = these birds lacked yellow lores and were in entirely wrong habitat for Swamp's and had a buffy, fine streaked breast

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? —  
If yes, explain:

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

Both times viewing was mid morning in good light, first birds seen together at about 15 ft; 2nd birds seen from about 25 ft. with 8.5x Binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have seen Lincoln's in Canada and in summer breeding areas in rocky meadows. Swamp's are quite common in fields locally.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? 3 days this form completed? 3 days

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