

CBC

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Vesper Sparrow

Number: 1

Date: 15 Dec 1990

Time: 3:04-3:30 p.m.

Location: 1 mi. w. of McFarland Park, Story Co., IA

Observer(s): Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames

Other observer(s): John Mayfield, George Brown, Gordon Brown

Description of bird(s): I was driving along road when several juncos and a larger, browner bird flushed from alongside the road. In the quick glimpse I got of the bird, I noticed it had white outer tail feathers. I turned around and quickly found the bird again along the road edge.

The bird was obviously a sparrow because of the size, general shape, and brown color. The underparts were heavily streaked, especially on the upper breast and flanks, and gradually faded to a white, unmarked lower belly. The tail was also brown, except for white outer tail feathers. The wings were brown as well and showed a clear white wing bar. The legs were pink. Bill appeared dark. Eye was dark, and was surrounded by a very bold white eye ring. Throughout the observation, the bird hopped around in the gravel along the road's edge with several Dark-eyed Juncos.

Optical equipment and viewing conditions: Viewing was in excellent light, and I easily got within 30 feet of the bird. I used Bausch and Lomb 7x35 binoculars.

References consulted: none

Previous experience with species: I am very familiar with Vesper Sparrows as they are common breeders in Iowa. I am also familiar with other sparrows that occur in Iowa.

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? 4 hours