

## DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

19887c

What species? Henslow's Sparrow How many? 2Location: Time Creek Nature Center, Cerro Gordo Co., just north of Mason CityType of Habitat? Large weedy fieldWhen? date(s): May 22 (IOU meeting) time: 7:15 AM to 1:00 PMWho? your name and address: Robert Cecil, 327 S. 6th, Keokuk, Iowa 52632Others with you: Initially, Mark and Beth Proescholdts, Jim Sinclair, John Cecil, Jackie GardnerOthers before or after you: about all active members of IOU

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.

About three seconds after getting out of my car for the Time Creek field trip, I heard a clear chil-ick' come from the field by the parking lot. I paused, and heard it again a few seconds later. I summoned Mark Proescholdt (whom I knew the song(call?) of the Henslow's Sparrow) who then heard it. We then spotted the singing bird, and with the aid of Jim Sinclair, confirmed the identification as a Henslow's Sparrow. Features initially noted included the short size and tail which was similar to a Grasshopper Sparrow, the flat-headed appearance, and the conspicuously stripped crown.

Although I did not make field notes, I did note the buffy, broad breast band, streaked breast, whitish throat, and greenish tint about cheeks.

Overall, the bird(s) was quite cooperative, singing from exposed perches, which involved the top of dead weeds.

Similar species; how eliminated: Grasshopper Sparrow has much different song, and no trace of greenish about head.

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

If yes, explain:

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

Lighting excellent. Distance 50' to 100' (estimate. I used 10x binocs plus various spotting scopes.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Studied several last year near Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. in VanBuren County.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None.

How long before field notes made? Not made this form completed? 1st draft- May 26

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