Rare Bird Documentation

Species: Field Sparrow Number: 1
Location: Jamaica CBC, Guthrie Co. IA
Observer: Ray Cummins

Others before/with/after: none

Date: 12/20/96 Time bird seen: 9:10am to 9:11am

Habitant: Cornfield edge with running water ravine.

Circumstances: As I was scanning a large numbers of sparrows that flushed from the field to small trees and shrubs in the ravine I came to one which I immediately ID as a Field Sparrow.

Description: The sparrow was slightly smaller than a Tree sparrow. It had a yellowish pink bill from the tip to the base. It had a distinctive narrow white eyering. It also had light gray sides and clear buff colored breast.

Description of voice: n/heard

Similarly appearing species: Tree Sparrow has a bicolored bill which is black at base and a much less distinctive eyering. Also, Tree Sparrow usually have a black central breast spot.

Distance: 20yds

Optical equipment: 8x40 binoculars

Light: Excellent

Previous experience with species: See regularly in Iowa from April into Nov.

Anyone have any reservations: no.

Books and references: none

Time of field notes: none. Final typing: 12/26/96.

Signature: Ray Cummins Address: 609 S. Main Street, Centerville, IA 52544.

Date: 12/26/96