

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Field Sparrow

Number: 1

Location: along River Road about 4 mi north of Keokuk, Lee Co., IA

Habitat: weedy area

Date: 22 December 1997

Time: 11:32-11:35 a.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 ½ West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird(s): Jim Sinclair, Gordon Brown

Description of bird(s): We were playing a screech-owl tape near a large weedy area when Gordon spotted a Field Sparrow perched with several Northern Cardinals. We studied the bird for a couple minutes before it flew off. The bird was a small, long-tailed sparrow, smaller and slimmer than a Song Sparrow. The long tail was notched at the tip. The underparts were very light gray and unmarked (no breast spot). The bill and legs were dull pink. Other features noted include two faint white wingbars, a gray auricular area, and a bold white eyering. We all agreed with the identification.

Similar species and how eliminated: The most similar species would be American Tree and Chipping Sparrows. The combination of white eyering, lack of a breast spot, and pink bill eliminates both of these species.

Previous experience with species: I have extensive experience with Field, Chipping, and American Tree Sparrows, as well as other sparrow species that occur in Iowa.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with overcast skies. Estimated viewing distance was 10-15m. I used 10x42 binoculars.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? written on 6 January 1998