

Spring

Harris Sparrow

2

Apr. 10, 1976

Coralville Reservoir

description

Jawa City, Iowa 52240

large sparrow, built like a white-crown but larger, longer-tailed, posture less erect.

crown, front of face, upper chest black; chest patch with irregular lower border. lower chest light brownish.

face light brown, with a faint eye stripe; bill pink.

nape, upper parts, wings, tail ~~is~~ dark brown; upper parts were streaked with darker blackish-brown; 2 very faint wing-bars.

light: sunny day; sun originally behind bird but we worked around + got good obs. with the light behind us.

optics 8x40 binocs.

habitat: woodlot with tall trees, weed patches, brush pile, in an area of fields and second-growth woods.

activities: hopping around in brush pile, eating buds in maple tree.

voice: began with three high-pitched wavering whistles, each rather like a white-throat's, followed by 2 buzzes on a lower pitch:

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see-ee-en-see-ee see-ee-ee

buzz buzz

Previous field experience: have seen Harris sparrows several times before (Wash; W. IA). am also familiar with white-throated + white-crowned sparrows, all other common Iowa sparrows, towhee.

M.C. Newton 11 April 76

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