

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Vesper Sparrow How many? 1
Location? 220th St + Violet, Cerro Gordo Co, IA
Type of Habitat? Farm land near a farmstead
When? date(s): Dec 17-94 time: 10:20 am to 10:25 am
Who? your name and address: RITA GORANSON
Others with you: Joel Hanes
Others before or after you: -

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.

Sparrow size, sitting on a fence, fluffed out, sat for a good look and still sitting 5 min later. Had flown to fence from gravel on road.

The bird had a white eye ring. It was greyish brown with some streaking on flanks + some under the throat. The center tail feathers were white. No rust patch could be seen.

Similar species; how eliminated:

not a junco - not the color of
not a meadowlark - too small
not a longspur - did not have the eye line
+ lighter eyebrow like longspurs
no face patch effect

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO
If yes, explain:

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

30 wide angle scope
60 ft - sun on bird

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have seen more Vespers than longspurs

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Eastern Birds by Peterson

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 2 days

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