

What species? Vesper Sparrow How many? 1Location? South of Tripoli, Ia. (Bremer County)Type of habitat? edge of ditch along gravel road along open fieldWhen? date(s): Dec 19, 1981 time: 2:30 P.M. to 2:32 P.M.Who? your name and address: Russell M Hays 5333 HOME PARK, Waterloo, Iothers with you: ELEANOR CONNOR ANTOINETTE CAMELATA

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

This bird was spotted by Russ Hays ^{as} they were driving along a gravel road. IT was sitting on a fence post. He described the bird to me as follows:

1. Fairly large sparrow - long tail
2. Head, back, + wings were overall a grayish-brown (did not notice chestnut on wings)
3. Breast was light (offwhite) and was streaked (no central spot)
4. Bird had a white eye ring

The bird flew down along fence row as Russ was getting out of the car and he did not see the white outer tail feathers and they could not relocate the bird. He was sure of his I.D., however.

(Compiler's note)

Russ is an experienced conservative birder and I believe his identification is probably correct.

Similar species and how eliminated: The song sparrow usually shows the breast stick-pin and would not have the white eye ring.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: 7x35 binocs.

Bright clear day - bird was only about 20' away

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Russ is very familiar with vesper sparrows

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? — this form completed? 2 weeks

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