

What species? VESPER SPARROW How many? 1Location? 7 MILES NORTH OF BURLINGTON (DES MOINES COUNTY)Type of habitat? AGRICULTURAL LANDWhen? date(s): 16 DECEMBER 1989 time: 3:05 PM to 3:10 PMWho? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL, RR#6, IOWA CITY, 52240others with you: CHARLES & JANE FULLER

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.

WHILE DRIVING A GRAVEL ROAD NORTH OF BURLINGTON ON THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, A SPARROW-LIKE BIRD FLEW FROM THE ROAD TO A FENCE, AND LATER INTO THE ROAD WHERE WE WATCHED IT FOR 5 MINUTES. IN FLIGHT, IT HAD DISTINCTIVE WHITE OUTER TAIL FEATHERS, WHICH WERE ALSO VISIBLE AT TIMES ON THE STANDING BIRD. THE BIRD WAS RATHER LIGHT IN GENERAL COLOR AND ABOUT THE SIZE OF A HOUSE SPARROW. THE BIRD HAD A PROMINENT WHITE EYE RING. THE BACK, CROWN AND WINGS FOLDED WERE BROWN STREAKED AND THE FLANKS HAD PROMINENT STREAKING. HOWEVER THE THROAT AND BREAST WERE WHITE AND UNSTREAKED. NO CHESTNUT WING PATCH COULD BE SEEN - EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD BE A NORMAL FIELD MARK. BOTH LEGS AND BILL WERE LIGHT - LEGS GRAY-PINK AND BILL LIGHT GRAY.

Similar species and how eliminated: SONG SPARROW - NO BREAST SPOT ON THIS BIRD AND VESPER HAS LESS BREAST STREAKING & ALSO WHITE OUTER TAIL FEATHERS. SAVANNAH SPARROW DOES NOT HAVE AS PROMINENT EYE RING AND NO WHITE OUTER TAIL FEATHERS.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

PARTLY CLOUDY - LOOKING WEST WITH 8.5 X 44 SWIFT BINOCULARS AT 40-75 FEET.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: ALL COMMON IOWA BIRDS DURING WARMER MONTHS

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NATHAN 4806

How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATE this form completed? 5 HOURS

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