

AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Henslow's sparrow 2. Number 1  
 3. Location Ventura Marsh W.A., 1/2 mi. SW of Ventura, Cerro Gordo Co., Iowa  
 4. Date: May 19, 1982 5. Time Bird Seen: 10:30 A.M. to 10:35 A.M.

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

sparrow-size, -shape, and -color; no details seen (no binoculars); identified by voice

It was exactly the same place where Fred Heinz had identified a Henslow's sparrow (by sight) on May 7, 1982.

7. Description of voice, if heard: "sslick"

8. Description of behavior: sang from a perch about 4 feet above ground

9. Habitat - general: open field edge about 30 feet from a willow thicket  
 specific: on a small willow in smooth brome and other grass species.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

11. Distance (how measured)?  
 20 yards (estimate)

12. Optical equipment: none

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
 sunny, sun on bird and at 90° angle to my right

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
 It was a common species when I conducted breeding bird surveys for Dr. Wm. H. Elder of the U. of Mo. on Tucker Prairie near Columbia, Mo., about 10 years ago.

15. Other observers:  
 Ronald Andrews Even though it was a long time ago, I remembered the distinctive call ~~as~~ as soon as I heard it.

16. Did the others agree with your identification? no opinion, Ron doesn't know

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: that bird by call  
 none

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
 looked at verbal description of call on same day (in Robbins et al.)  
 listened to call on Peterson "Field Guide to Bird Songs" the same day

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 4 weeks

Signature: James L. Hansen Address: Iowa Conservation Commission  
 1203 North Shore Drive

Date: June 16, 1982 City, State: Clear Lake, Iowa 50428