

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? HENSLAW'S SPARROW How many? AT LEAST 2Location? VAN BUREN COUNTY NEAR LACEY-KEOSAUQUA S.P.Type of habitat? TALL GRASS BORDERING ALFALFA FIELDWhen? date(s): 11 JULY time: 6:35 PM to 6:50 PMWho? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL, RR #6, IOWA CITY, IA, 52240others with you: JANE FULLERothers before or after you: PETE WICKNAM, CHUCK FULLER

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.

I PARKED MY CAR AND IMMEDIATELY HEARD A TIS-LICK CALL VERY CLOSE OVER FENCE ON EAST SIDE OF THE ROAD. FOR MUCH OF THE TIME THE ONE BIRD WAS OBSERVED IT SAT ON A SMALL LOCUST TREE 6-8" ABOVE THE TALL GRASS. IT CONTINUED TO SING ITS TWO SYLLABLE CALL EVERY 5 SECONDS OR SO, AND THREW ITS HEAD BACK EACH TIME. ABOUT HALF THE TIME IT WAS HEADED TOWARD ME AND HALF HEADED AWAY. IT WAS VIEWED IN THE SCOPE MOST OF TIME AT 25-30 YARDS. IT FLEW ONCE, JUST OVER THE GRASS AND SORT OF WOBBLED. THE HEAD WAS VERY FLAT, AT TIMES IT APPEARED AS AN ALMOST STRAIGHT LINE FROM BILL TIP TO BACK OF CROWN. THE CROWN HAD A DARK CROWN STRIPE IN ITS CENTER AND ONE ON EACH SIDE OF TOP OF HEAD. THERE WAS ALSO A DARK LINE DISTAL TO EYE AND A SIDEBURN FROM FRONT OF EYE. COLOR BETWEEN DARK STRIPES WAS A GRAYISH-BROWN. ~~HEAD~~ WAS QUITE STREAKED AND IN THE RIGHT LIGHT, WINGS HAD A REDDISH TASTE. TAIL WAS SHORT AND AT TIMES APPEARED NOTCHED. BILL WAS LARGE AND A LIGHT GRAY COLOR. EYE WAS DARK. BREAST & BELLY WERE WHITE WITH A SUBTLE STREAKING ACROSS CHEST. THIS STREAKING WAS MOST PROMINENT & DARKEST TOWARD THE SIDES AND FAINTEST IN THE CENTER OF CHEST. AT LEAST ONE OTHER BIRD WAS CALLING SOME DISTANCE TO THE SOUTH, AND AT TIMES, I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE A THIRD.

Similar species and how eliminated:

OTHER GRASSLAND SPARROWS - ELIMINATED BY CALL AND COLOR OF SIDE OF HEAD

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

EVENING. CLEAR SUN NOT SHINING ON AREA. 9X36 BINOCULARS AND 16-48X SCOPE VIEWED AT 25-30 YARDS. WELL SEEN IN SCOPE FOR 5-10 MINUTES ON SAME PERCH.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: SEEN IN WISCONSIN 1985 AND SEEN IN VAN BUREN CO. 1987.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NAT'L GEOG GUIDE

How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATE this form completed? 3 HOURS

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240