

REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION

To: Dennis Carter

From: Tom Kent, Field Reports Editor, Iowa Bird Life, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

Sometimes I am on the fence as to whether to include a bird sighting in the report or not, usually because I don't have enough information or the sighting is so unusual that I would like to check on it. I have a choice of making a decision or seeking more information. This form is an attempt to do the latter.

I would appreciate it if you would return this form in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope as soon as possible so that I can make alterations in the report before it is published. Thanks.

Record: Fox Sparrow, 18 Sep, Cardinal M.

Significance: record earliest

Information requested:

- confirm date — 18 Sep 1995
- how well seen (viewing time, distance, view, other details)
- description of bird (as much as you can honestly remember)
- voice (heard?, what was heard?)
- can other observers also provide details?

Lee Zieke Lee and I found the Fox Sparrow in a brushy fence-row, at the SE corner of Cardinal Marsh, during a mid-morning visit. The fence-row is across the road from an old home site. This locality consistently has concentrations of sparrows, including Fox Sparrow, during both spring and fall migration.

Lee and I were observing a flock of Song and White-throated Sparrows, when Lee called out Fox Sparrow. I soon spotted the bird and we observed it for about a minute at a distance of about 10 yards^{8 to}. We saw it again a few minutes later while we continued to scan the flock, and also located a Lincoln's Sparrow. We noted the rusty-red color of the wings, tail, and heavy blotching on the underparts^{with 8x binoculars.}. The bird had a chunky appearance, compared to the other sparrows present^{of the Fox Sparrow.}. We are both very familiar with this species. Lee sees it regularly, in migration, at her Willowglebe Nursery home.

I often find sparrows at unusually early fall dates at this Cardinal Marsh locality but did not realize that this was a record early date for Fox Sparrow.

Dennis Carter 12/13/95