


DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Lark Bunting How many? 2 malesLocation? Fairview Quad T96N R47W Sec 17/20 Sioux CityType of habitat? Upper terrace, unplanted semi-plowed field at time, between ^{Big} Sioux and Rock Rivers, high water conditionsWhen? date(s): 6/14/84 time: 3:30 to 3:45Who? your name and address: Carol Thompson 617 S. Johnson Iowa Cityothers with you: Noneothers 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.

Birds sat on fence and on wire off pole 

Sparrow-sized all black bird with large white wing patches. Did not sing.

I attempted to take some pictures, film was later ruined. Birds were mostly just sitting.

Moved further down fence after I got out of car to take pictures. Still in area when I left. The two birds were not immediately next to each other usually separated by 20-25 feet or so. Showed no aggressive tendencies towards each other.Similar species and how eliminated: Bobolink - did not have light patch on back of head nor ~~any~~ white in body or rump.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

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

Clear, sunny, birds on fence and on wire coming down from pole
Binoculars 9x35 Distance ^{to} 50-100 feet approximated

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Many Lark Buntings seen in grassland areas of W.S. Dak, E. Colorado.References and persons consulted before writing description: Field guide at time of sighting was National GeographicHow long before field notes made? None, this form completed? Sept 13, 84

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