

What species? Indigo Bunting (Passerina cyanea) How many? 1 (♀)Location? Big Creek State Park, Polk Co., Iowa (S.W. Boat ramp)Type of habitat? Brushy, weedy tangle on lake shore (Veg. browned, Killed by frost)When? date(s): Nov. 4, 1989 time: 11:10 to 11:15 am 50010Who? your name and address: Joe Schaufenbuel, 929 Pammel Ct., Ames, IAothers with you: James D. Dinsmore, Steve Dinsmore, Amesothers 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.

A conical-billed sparrow-like bird slimmer and shorter than a House Sparrow. The bill was light brown on upper mandible and light tan-yellow on bottom, though as a whole the color difference was not distinctly bicolored. The body color was somewhat uniform, tan to light olive-brown. The head, nape, back and rump were darker than the breast, sides, and lower cheek. The chin and throat as well as belly and under tail were the lightest colored parts. The latter parts contrasted, but not strongly, with the rest of the plumage. The eyes were dark with a faint light tan eye-ring. The wings were the darkest part of bird being a gray-brown. The margins of the lesser and median wing coverts were a light brown to tan suggesting wing bars. The wings were typical passerine-like. The tail was medium length with a slight notch. Legs were brownish-grey. Faint streaking on the breast was evident and continued on the sides. The bird flipped its tail occasionally.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Sparrow species: White wing-bars lacking, No hint of rust on crown, back or wings. No distinct supercilium. No strong streakage. No strong head pattern. Was a nondescript small brown finch.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? —

Call: A short 'bic' unlike 'chip' or 'seet' of sparrows.

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny day with bird to north of me as the sun was at my back.
40 ft at closest approach

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Full knowledge of species' calls and plumage.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 3 hours this form completed? 3 hoursMAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240Joe SchaufenbuelNovember 4, 1989