

713 - 13th Ave.SW
Rochester, Mn. 55901
June 28, 1977

Dear Mr. Peterson,

Thought ~~it~~ might be of interest to you that a group of six birders from Rochester visited Hayden Prairie (Chester, Iowa) on June 4, 1977 and saw a Henslow's Sparrow.

We were on the Prairie from about 12:30 - 2 p.m. The day was sunny and hot (80's) and there was no wind. We saw the Henslow's Sparrow in the NE corner of the larger section of the prairie - 200-300 yards from the road. We had made a big loop through the field following the mowed path, listening to and watching Bobolinks, Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Savannah Sparrows, and Grasshopper Sparrows. As we reached this Northeast corner we became aware of another song "Slick"....."Slick"..... Realizing that it might be a Henslow's we tried to get close enough to see field marks. Luckily we had a Spotting scope along with a 20x lens* Using it we could see the dark (olive) head, faint eye ring, clear throat, clear belly, and streaking across the breast. The bird stayed perched and singing on a low stalk (stiff grass or flower stalk) for several minutes. Then it flew off and dropped into the grass 50-70 feet away. Later it returned to the same area to perch several times and sang more. We watched until all six of us had had a good look and we were satisfied with the identification** There appeared to be more than one Henslow's Sparrow in the area.

I am a seasonal reporter for the MOU and have been sending in reports for 2½ years. I obtained your name from Bob Janssen.

I am sorry there has been a delay in getting this report to you.

Sincerely,


Joan K. Fowler

*Bushnell Spacemaster II

**Robbins - Birds of North America was the field guide we had with us at the time