

Common Name: Harris Sparrow Scientific Name: Zonotrichia querula  
 Date: Dec 1-7, 1991 Time: usually from 0730-0930 Length of time observed: off and on over 1 week  
 Number: Age: Sex: ? probably an immature bird  
 Location: Fruita, backyard of 117 Fruita Lane  
 Latilong: Elevation (if known): 5300'  
 Distance to bird: from 10-50'  
 Optical equipment: 7x35's 7x50's Light conditions: mixed weather, partly cloudy to clear, snowed once during week (c. 1")  
 Weather:   
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Large, chunky sparrow with "average-length" tail (not short or long), squared-off with a slight notch in middle - no white edging - ~~streak~~ suggestion of a crown, as in white-crowned sparrow, but head markings + breast different. Side of head buffy with faint brown streaking. Dark cap on crown with fine "speckled" look. White throat with faint black lines on either side. Some streaking on sides + breast. Blackish blotch below throat (not very large, however), "cut-off" by line below throat (this was very obvious). Finally - it had a large, distinctly pink bill. It was c. 20% larger than Junco's it was with.

Dear Merrill,

- Sherwood Casjens suggested I
- send this report to you.

John Spence

PS - I would like to do some Christmas counter this year - either Kanel, Cedar City or St. George. I'll get in touch with the paper people in the next few days.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: none

Behavior: scratched + foraged vigorously on ground, looking for seeds. Aggressive with Junco's. Not very nervous.

Habitat: lawn

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

White-crowned - different head + breast markings

~~White-crowned~~

Black blotch + tail ruled out White-throated + Golden-crowned

White-throat + head pattern ruled out Fox

Size + pink bill ruled out most other species

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

pretty good with sparrows (although I'm still learning!)

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

NGS guide - none

Significance of record in this area or the state:

very rare for Capitol Reef

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting X notes made later     from memory    

Observer: John Spence

Signature: John Spence

Address: 117 Fruita Lane  
Capitol Reef NP  
Torrey UT 84775

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared:

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen  
3868 Marsha Drive  
West Valley City, Utah 84120