

UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
SIGNIFICANT SIGHTING RECORD DOCUMENTATION

1982-04/b ufo

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Lat/long \_\_\_\_\_ Reporter \_\_\_\_\_ Sci Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Record type \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. MAY 20 1982  
Date/time \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition \_\_\_\_\_ Cx Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name Baird's Sparrow  
Scientific Name Ammodramus bairdii  
Sight date May 1, 1982 time 9:20 AM duration 5-7 minutes  
Distance from bird Varied from 30 to 150 feet  
Light conditions Excellent  
Optical equip. 8X30 M.Kon Binoculars  
Photo. equip. —

Weather at time of this observation.  
No wind, sky clear, 70° F.  
Prior weather & number of days since change  
Clear and unseasonably warm for previous five days

Number of this species seen One  
Notes made at time of sighting  Date this report was prepared.  
Notes made later from memory   
Photo available  Photo enclosed  May 4, 1982

Locality  
Antelope Island, Davis County.  
Approximately 3/4 mile NNW of ranch on east side of island.

Male  Adult  Age unk.  Basic Plumage  Light Phase   
Female  Subadult  ♀ or Imm  Breeding  Dark Phase   
Sex Unk.  Juv/Imm  \_\_\_\_\_ year bird  Eclipse  Molting

Description of bird. Size, Colors, all field marks OBSERVED - Unique features of this bird, if any.

Sparrow sized bird, the same size as vesper sparrow which was seen next to it, i.e. about 5 inches long. Bill dusky and finch shaped. Appeared to be a typical sparrow sized bill. Outstanding field marks were: yellow-orange head color, broken up by dark dusky brown lines on face and side of head; finely streaked upper breast and clear whitish-gray lower breast. At first head appeared to superficially resemble that of a fall townsend's warbler. Closer examination of the head showed a wide (for size of head) orange-yellow median crown stripe with dark stripes along sides of crown. The supercilary lines were distinctly yellow-orange in color. The yellowish color extended down into cheek area also. The back of the bird was a dark brown with typical sparrow markings; tail upper surface was dark brown to blackish. The tail was medium long for a sparrow and was not notched. The whole dorsal surface was much darker than that of nearby vesper sparrows. Legs red-flesh color. Upper breast streaked with narrow clean dark lines which ended abruptly at center of breast except for a few lines which came down the sides very close to the wings. The lower breast was clear white. The upper breast with streaks was white, not yellow in background color. The yellowish-orange color of head was much more pronounced than shown in any of the common field guides and the breast streaking much sharper than shown in most field guides.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL NOTES, LISTS OF REFERENCES, SKETCHES FROM LIFE, PHOTOGRAPHS ETC.



Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

Field guides mention that some individuals have light colored outer tail feathers, especially in male. This field mark was definitely not present as tail was carefully observed, particularly during flight.

Variations from expected field marks.

None

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Henslow's sparrow - tail of bird long not short, head of bird yellow-orange not dusky olive, top (Eastern U.S. range) head of bird rounded not flat, wings of bird showed no reddish

Grasshopper sparrow - Breast of bird observed was streaked on upper parts and white, not unstreaked to che in color. Head shape rounded, not flat, and tail of bird long not short.

Savannah sparrow - Breast streaked finely on upper part, not heavy streaking continuing on down to lower breast as in Savannah sp., tail of bird long and unnotched, not short and notched, median crown stripe yellow-orange not white as found in Savannah.

Sharp-tailed sparrow - yellow-orange mid crown stripe versus ~~grey~~ ~~grey~~ crown for sharp-tailed, cheek (Eastern U.S. range) of bird yellow-brown not grey.

Le Conte's sparrow - median head stripe of observed bird yellow-orange not white, streaks on upper breast, Le Conte's has none.

Lincoln's sparrow - Head of bird yellow-orange not grey + brown as in Lincoln's, breast white not buff.

In summary, No sparrow but Baird's has yellow-orange broad median crown stripe and narrow upper breast <sup>streaking</sup>

Behavior of this bird. Include names of other birds with this one and any interaction.

Bird feeding on ground, occasionally flying from one grassy area to another, never getting more than 1-2 feet above ground during flight. Bird seen very well for about 2 minutes from about 30-40 feet when it perched on a small boulder. Bird was found in a small, 5-6 birds <sup>flock</sup> of vesper sparrows. No interaction was observed between the two species.

Habitat this location and near by or adjacent habitat if significant.

Small dry gully or wash devoid of trees or bushes. Gully running through severely overgrazed grassland. Bird feeding along sides of gully where largest clumps of grasses (6" tall) were found. Rest of grass about 1/2" in height.

Describe birds song or sounds.

None

Names of other observers. A/C + phone #

Bill Hunter (801) 266-7060  
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What is your experience with this or similar birds?

with Baird's

1 None, but familiar in the field with Savannah, sharp-tailed, and Lincoln's sparrows.

Print name & mailing address below.

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