

1982-23 ufo

SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES AND/OR SPECIES IN HIGH NUMBERS FEB - 2 RECD

CBC name _____ CBC date _____ Compiler _____

Observer writing this account and date Merrill Webb

SPECIES Swamp Sparrow ^(mexicana) georgiana NUMBER, AGE, SEX 2 immatures

Distance from bird(s) 10-40 yds Relative size of birds Sparrow-sized

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar regions, median line, etc.)

Gray head & neck; crown lightly streaked with gray bordered with reddish-brown stripes. Had a brownish eyelid & lighter brown auricular

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.)

Dark eyes

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES Both mandibles intermediate between light & black

LEGS & FEET Brownish

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts, etc.)

Nape - Gray; Back & tail - dark brown, throat white.

RETRICES (Describe inner, middle, outertail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.)

Brownish

Breast - very light gray with faint streakings; Belly whitish, flanks a gray

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges, etc.)

No wing bars; rusty colored wings

VOCALIZATION None heard

BEHAVIOR Flown on a straight line - no pumping of tail. Appeared on the

of cattails where it would walk on the ground about feeding area

also fed on ground under a large white tree & perched in lower branches

DATE OF OBSERVATION Jan 15-17, 1982 TIME 12th - 5:15 PM WEATHER Cold & clear SKY COVER None

DURATION OF OBSERVATION 1-2 min. bird only BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION 72° north, overhead

EXACT LOCATION Small branch area of wet lake just so w. of Brown Sargeant

HABITAT Cattails, bulrushes & R. umbellata OTHER OBSERVERS Mike Love on 17th

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT 7x50 Binoculars & 4x40 scope

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/OBSERVERS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES, ETC.

always first saw the bird on the 15th the most striking characteristic was its
bright rusty wings - even with poor light. The next day I was able
observe two different birds over about an hour's duration & compare
them with song sparrows, which predominated in numbers. I saw
a single Lincoln's Sparrow (which was also observed by Dennis S
Lee & Mark Bromley) to make sure of correct ID. The Lincoln's Sparrow
was very cautious & skulked very carefully along the edge of the cattail
bed. Its rusty wings & dark brownish crown stripes & the gray
head & neck, its small and plump, whereas the Swamp Sparrow was grayish. The Swamp

also seen by Richard & Ella Sorensen on Jan. 25 who saw 2
Swamp Sparrows.

wings, but not as extensive nor as bright. The two
birds looked just like the photograph (#541) in the
Audubon Society Field Guide to N. American Birds by Knoff.
The Peterson's Fieldguide to Western Birds doesn't show the rust
wings on the immature nor is it very good even for the
adult. The rust is a lot like the rusty tail of the Hermit
Thrush. The clincher came on Sat. when Mike Tove from
No. Carolina saw it before I did & said, "There's your
Swampie" pointing to the same bird I had identified as
the Swamp Sparrow the two days previous. He has seen
this species in the East & is familiar with both adult
& immature markings.

This was written on Jan. 30 from notes taken the days of observation.
Plus four different field guides & two additional texts were con-
sulted since this ~~was~~ was my first experience with the
species.

Signed Merrill Webb Jan. 30, 1982

Harris' Sparrow — Seen by Bob Parsons on Jan. 28,
Merrill Webb Kelly & Mary Jensen & Mark Brown
Jan. 29th & Dennis Shirley Jan. 30.
Trouton (between Springfield & Provo.