

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE FOR U.F.O. RECORDS AND DOCUMENTATION CODES ONLY.

Lat/long _____ Reporter _____ Sci Name _____
 Habitat _____ Record type _____ Serial No. 1983-003
 Date/time _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Rufous-crowned SparrowScientific Name Aimophila ruficepsSight date 9 Mar 1983 time 11:30 am duration 5 min.Distance from bird 30 to 60 feetLight conditions Good, sun to my back.Optical equip. Bushnell 7x35 binocsPhoto. equip. —Number of this species seen 2Notes made at time of sighting Date this reportNotes made later from memory was prepared.Photo available Photo enclosed 22 Mar 1983

Weather at time of this observation.

Clear, 75°, no wind.

Prior weather & number of days since ch.

Several days of similar weather

Locality

3 miles east of Virgin,
Washington Co.

Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adult <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Age unk. <input type="checkbox"/>	Basic Plumage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Light Phase <input type="checkbox"/>
Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Subadult <input type="checkbox"/>	♀ or Imm <input type="checkbox"/>	Breeding <input type="checkbox"/>	Dark Phase <input type="checkbox"/>
Sex Unk. <input type="checkbox"/>	Juv/Imm <input type="checkbox"/>	____ year bird <input type="checkbox"/>	Eclipse <input type="checkbox"/>	Molting <input type="checkbox"/>

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

Birds were approximately 5 inches long with a moderately plump body and no visible neck. The head had a rufous cap on the entire crown, region extending from the bill to the nape. There was a light grayish-brown eye stripe which was slightly lighter than the grayish cheek. Eyes were dark. The bill was short and conical shaped and grayish-brown in color. The throat was light gray bordered by a black whisker mark. The underparts from throat to belly were gray, but slightly lighter in coloration than the cheek area. There were no markings on the underparts, undertail coverts were not observed. The back was brown, finely streaked with dark brown. Wings were brown with no wing bars. The tail was approximately 2 inches long, dark brown in color somewhat slender with a rounded tip. Legs were brown.

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

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

None.

Variations from expected field marks. .

None

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

Only rufous capped sparrow to be expected in this habitat is Chipping Sparrow. Chipping Sparrow differs in having a white stripe, 2 white wing bars, and a notched tail; lacks the whisker mark, and is lighter below.

Tree Sparrow, very rare in S. Utah, has 2 white wing bars, a central breast spot, and a notched tail. Whisker mark not as prominent.

Swamp Sparrow, not to be expected, lacks the prominent whisker mark, has a more distinct eye stripe, rufous shoulder, and different song.

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

The male was first observed singing from the top of a large live oak approximately 60 feet across the wash from me. After a couple of minutes, he dropped into the bush and soon reappeared on the near side of the oak about 30 feet from me. A second bird, assumed to be a female, was observed on the ground near the male. She was picking up grasses and other dead vegetation, so was very likely nest building. After a couple of minutes, both birds moved into the

Habitat, this location and near by or adjacent habitat if significant. bush & did not reappear

A steep, boulder strewn wash with scattered stands of live oak (*Quercus turbinella*). Adjacent slopes were very steep & rocky with grasses and snakeweed.

Describe birds song or sounds.

A soft, variable series of notes of 3-5 seconds duration, repeated every 15 or 20 seconds.

Names of other observers. A/C+phone

none.

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I have observed Rufous-crowned once previously in Utah (Zion) & several times in Arizona. I have observed Swamp Sparrows many times in the U.S.

Chipping & Tree Sparrow - numerous observations in many states.

Print name & mailing address below

Steven P. Hedges
889 S. Cedar Knolls W.
Cedar City, UT 84720

A/C and Phone No. 801-586-3420

Signature: Steven P. Hedges