

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Harris Sparrow

Scientific Name: *Zonotrichia querula*

Date: 11/7/85

Time: early afternoon

Length of time observed: Several minutes

Number: one

Age: juvenile

Sex: ?

Location: Hansen Hollow - a gully at the mouth of Parleys Canyon
in Salt Lake City

Lat/long: Block #6

Elevation (if known): about 5,000 feet

Distance to bird: about 20 feet

Light conditions: on ground in light
shadows

Optical equipment: Nikon 8x20 binoculars

Weather: Partly cloudy

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

The bird was almost identical to the juvenile depicted in the National Geographic's Field Guide to the Birds of North America. It had a brown back and wings, white belly and obvious dark brown bib. The throat was white with just a hint of black on either side of the white throat patch. After referring to the book, I looked for the scaly pattern that was supposed to be on the top of the head. It became obvious only in exactly the right light. The pink bill was obvious. The bird was about the size of an Oregon Junco.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: none

Behavior: flitting on the ground eating seeds. It was part of a small (5-10) flock of Juncos.

Habitat: bushes near a stream

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

Any of the sparrows. Distinguished by pink bill, obvious dark bib, white throat with black lines on side, peculiar dark markings on top of head.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

First sighting of this bird.

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

Relied heavily on advice of Ella Sorensen and Bob Bond who were with me at the time. Also the National Geographic Field Guide.

Significance of record in this area or the state: Uncommon

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

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

Observer: Jim Woolf
Address: 2522 So. 1800 East
Salt Lake City, Utah
84106

Signature: James H. Woolf

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Ella Sorensen
Bob Bond

Date prepared: 11/18/85

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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