

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Golden-Crowned Sparrow

Scientific Name: *Zonotrichia atricapilla*

Date: 9/30/90

Time: 2:30 PM

Length of time observed: 3 min.

Number: 1

Age: ~~1st yr.~~ winter? Sex: ?

Location: WEST POINT, Utah

Lat/long: 2

Elevation: 4230

Distance to bird: 30 ft.

Light conditions: excellent

Optical equipment: Binos 10x50

Weather: warm/clear

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

Medium sized sparrow with medium brown upper parts streaked on back and scapulars with dark brown. Underparts - light throat, breast and flanks medium brown, belly and undertail coverts white. Face (auriculars and sides of neck) medium brown. Brown nape noticeably streaked with brown. No eyestripe. Crown blackish brown with a touch of mottled yellow on ^{mid} anterior area. 2 Wing bars, pink feet, and bill grayish on upper mandible with a lighter lower mandible. Was with white-crowned sparrows and stood out as a noticeably darker bird overall with an odd colored crown

Voice or call notes:

none heard

Behavior:

Feeding on ground and in weedy brushy area

Habitat:

Brushy area near stream

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:

Darker overall coloration, dark crown with yellowish mottling, streaked nape and darker bill was very different from imm. white-crowned

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

Imm. white-crowned - this bird was darker overall, blackish-brown crown with yellow mottling, no eye-stripe on plain brown face, streaked on nape, bill was dusker than the pink white-crowned white-throated - head and face pattern very different. Throat white divided into three sections, breast gray.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Have seen G.C.'s in Utah (winter) and Calif. Very familiar with W.C.'s and W.T's.

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

National Geo. and Audubon's Master Guide (photo ~~in~~ Master looks very much like this bird)

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Rare winter visitant

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

Observer:

CRAIG L. KNEEDY
314 S. 4500 W.

Signature:



Address:

West Point, Utah 84015

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared:

12/29/90 from notes at time of sighting

Return this form to:

Utah Ornithological Society
C/O Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120