

4-1998

Notes on a Clay-colored sparrow seen 9-26-98 at Worm Springs Wildlife Mngt. Area (Utah Co.) by R.J. Adams and Kevin Johnson.

While biading the main Road at Worm Springs, an unusual sparrow was seen in a large mixed flock consisting of predominately white-crowns, but with a scattering of Brewers and Lincolns as well. What was immediately apparent was the strongly patterned face, with a broad white malar stripe with thin dark edges, and a bold buffy-white supercillium.

The bird had light brown ear coverts with darker edging, no apparent eye ring, and a broad lead-grey collar around the nape of the neck. The sides of the breast were buffy, with a white center, ~~and~~ and a white lower breast and belly. The central crown stripe was not noticed.

The ~~bird~~ bird was seen in direct comparison to the white-crowns and Brewers sparrows. It was distinctly smaller than the white-crown, being approx. the same size as the Brewers. It's overall buffy color and boldly patterned face however immediately separated it from the Brewers. (much greyer without the strongly contrasting supercillium or ~~ear~~ ear covert edges.)

only the head, ~~breast~~ breast, and belly of the bird were clearly seen. It was observed twice, once by R.J. Adams for ~~about~~ about 20-30 sec, and again 3-4 minutes later by ~~both~~ both R.J. Adams and Kevin Johnson for 10-15 sec. before it flew with the flock to a tree ~~to~~ farther into the marsh. It was never heard to call.

The bird is an uncommon but annual fall migrant in California where it recently moved from, and it became ~~quite~~ very familiar with the species as one wintered for

several months in a field ~~at~~ three blocks from  
my home (Dec - Feb 1996-1997). previous to this I  
had seen 4 individuals in fall migration. Kevin Johnson  
is familiar with the bird as a breeder in Minnesota  
where he spent many years.

The flock was about half way between the  
Warm Springs entrance and the closed gate at the  
area's southern border.

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