

17 B 1987

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

17-1987a

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: White-throated Sparrow

Scientific Name: *Zonotrichia albicollis*Date: September 29, 1987 2pm, 6pm
September 30, 1987 6pm

Length of time observed: 10 minutes

Number: 1

Age:

Sex:

Location: approx 3200 West Center St North Salt Lake Davis County
Steve Gilmore property

Lat/long:

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: variable 15-30 feet

Light conditions: bird seen both in
sunlight and shade

Optical equipment: 7X35 binoculars

Weather: sunny, calm

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

head = median stripe grayish or buff ----
bordered by two wide dark stripes (dark brown? black?)
supercilium (wide) in some lights appeared buffy, in other lights
appeared white, there was some disagreement
between observers on whether it was buffy
or white in any case when it was viewed
at the same time as the throat it
did seem a little less white

LORES - BRIGHT YELLOW

Eyestripe - dark extending through eye to bill

throat -



Bright white contrasting sharply with
surrounding gray. When closely observed
when bird was facing observers three
arcus could be seen outlined in the white
throat

bill - dusky

belly - white

sides, breast gray perhaps a slight blurring
indistinct markings across breast
(barely visible)

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: a tseet was repeatedly heard and as the bird flew from bush to bush to tree, to weed the tseet note seemed to follow.
Behavior: Sept 29 bird seen briefly then disappeared not to be refound.
Sept 30 bird flew from bush to bush usually within 10 feet of ground then flew to a downed tree branch and started eating for grass seeds growing on a long stalk. The bird was viewed for a considerable time from all angles as it ate the seeds.

Habitat: isolated clump of trees around a semi abandoned farm with large trees, much brush, grass. The bird spent most of the time in a boggy area eating seeds from tall grass. All three times it was in this general area.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:
White-crowned Sparrow does not have yellow lores. It can have a whitish throat but the white-throated has a much larger, delineated brighter white throat. White-throated more hunched appearing because of the shorter neck.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

This is the fourth white-throated sparrow I have seen in Utah.

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

Significance of record in this area or the state:

rare transient and winter visitor

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

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

Observer: Ella Sorensen

Signature: Ella Sorensen

Address: 3868 Marsha Dr
West Valley City, UT 84120

Other observers who independently identified this bird: Richard Sorensen
Craig Kneedy

Date prepared: 10/1/87

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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