

Common Name: WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

Scientific Name: ZONOTRICHIA leucophrys

Date: 9/30/87

Time: 6:15 PM

Length of time observed: 5 min

Number: 1

Age: ADULT

Sex: ?

Location: GILMORE FARM - WEST OF NORTH SALT LAKE IN DAVIS CO.

Lat/long: 6

Elevation (if known): Approx. 4225

Distance to bird: 12 feet to 35⁺ ft.

Light conditions: GOOD; JUST BEFORE SUNSET

Optical equipment: TASCO BINO'S 10X50

BUT BIRD WAS SEEN IN GOOD LIGHT

Weather: CLEAR/WARM 65° OF

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

Approx. same size as white crowned sparrow but not as "alert-looking" - shorter necked and dumpy.

Over all back coloration brownish-gray with dark brown streaking. Breast and flank coloration gray. Belly area was dirty white.

Throat & head coloration very distinctive - throat clean white definitely set apart from gray of face and breast by thin dark line on sides of throat (border between face & throat) and a dark line separating bottom of throat patch from breast. Faint "whiskers" from the corners of the mandible divided the throat into 3 distinct sections.

The eyebrow was bordered above and below by black stripes the more dorsal stripe ~~being~~ the widest. The "eyebrow" itself appeared to me to be off-white (not as bright as the throat) with a bright yellow lore area. The median crown stripe was also "off" white tending more to the grayish side and again not as bright clean white as the throat.

Bill was grayish pink as were the legs.

Overall posture was totally different than the accompanying white-crow but most distinctive was the bright white throat that appeared bordered and the bright yellow lores.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

A kassy zeet was heard that was different from the accompanying
Behavior: white-crowned and was therefore attributed to the white-throated
Flew from weedy thickets to brushy Russian Olive trees.
At one point was seed eating casually on a sunflower.

Habitat: Overgrown orchard with a flowing well and a stagnant
slough nearby - very brushy and weedy especially along slough and
fence-lines

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

white-crowned sparrow - looks totally different! There probably isn't
a white-crowned alive that has such a brilliant white
throat set apart from the breast coloration. This bird's lores
literally glowed yellow. This bird had a noticeably
shorter neck and an overall "dumpy" appearance.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

This ~~is~~ the first and only white-throated to date, but the
white-crowns are as common as maggots on a dead dog
around here!!

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

National Geographic & Audubon Master Guides were consulted as was
a discussion with Richard & Ella Sorensen - but this description is
from my notes and not influenced by sources cited.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

This bird is probably a rare migrant and winter visitant to Utah

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

A photograph was taken, but remains in the camera - will be forwarded
if it turns out.

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ☒ notes made later ☐ from memory ☐

Observer: CRAIG L. KNEEDY

Signature:

Address: 314 S. 4500 W.

West Point, Utah

84015

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

RICHARD SORENSEN

ELLA SORENSEN

Date prepared: 10/12/87

Return this form to:

Ella Sorensen

3868 Marsha Drive

West Valley City, Utah 84120