

APPENDIX V  
 UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
 UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

by Nelson Boschen

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

 Latilong \_\_\_\_\_ Record type \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition \_\_\_\_\_ Cx Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

 Common Name Harris' Sparrow  
 Scientific Name Zonotrichia querula  
 Obs. date Jan. 1, 1991 Time(s) 1035 to 1110  
 Duration of obs. 35 minutes  
 Distance from bird 30 to 70 Feet  
 Light conditions optimum, from behind observers  
 Optical equip. one 9x30 + two 10x40 bins  
 Photo equip. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notes made at time of sighting \_\_\_\_\_ Date report prepared \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notes made later from memory  \_\_\_\_\_

Weather at time of this observation.

Clear, calm, ~ 35° F. Scattered small snow patches.

Prior weather and number of days since change

Same since 1" snow fell about 3 days ago.

Locality Moab, UTLatilong block number 18

Enter number of birds in each category.	GENDER(S)		AGES(S)		PLUMAGE(S)		PHOTO(S)			
	Total number observed.	Males _____	Females _____	Adults _____	Juv/Imms <u>1</u>	Breeding _____	Transition _____	Eclipse _____	Dark phase _____	Available _____
<u>one</u>	<del>♀</del> or Imms <u>1</u>	Unknowns _____	2/3 yr birds _____	Unknowns _____	Winter _____	Light ph. _____	Other _____			

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

Length ~ 7", or ~ 1/2 longer than the  $\geq 20$  White-crowned Sparrows it was feeding with, + noticeably slightly larger bodied than the White-crowns, otherwise relative proportions appeared similar though the tail may have been slightly relatively longer + it gave the impression of being slightly more bulky in body proportions. Base color of a pale buffy brown from entire head (behind whisker line) to tail tip + on sides + flanks. Rump + tail unmarked. Entire crown covered with narrow lines of fine blackish specks ending at nape where there was a medium brown smudge down its center. The sides of the face were plain except for a faint med.-brown smudge outlining the rear edge of the earpatch area. A narrow whisker stripe was even less distinct + separated the buffy area from the pure white chin + throat. Bill all flesh-pink. No eyering or lore. Underparts all white except for a broken black upper breast chain most concentrated at its center, + buffy sides + flanks, both of which contained large med.-brown smudged streaks; undertail coverts appeared slightly duller white (tho this may have been due to shade) to tail which was square-tipped, straight-sided + relatively long. Back + scapular feathers had black or blackish centers, as did the the coverts which were lined with buff on the sides + white-tipped. Primaries + secondaries with blackish centers, lined with buff (white on tips not looked for). No central crown stripe, nor white on any tail feathers, nor gray tone to any of plumage.



An overall quick impression was of a heavy sparrow of warm buff above (especially apparent on the plain side of face), white below, with a necklace + a dorsal spattering of black, + an all-bright flesh-pink bill, + a long tail.

Note: Since I was giving a private birding "tour", there was not time to write details on the spot. Instead, the 2 ladies + I constantly discussed the above features + comparisons to the similar species while we watched.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

Variations from expected field marks.

Tail not obviously darker than rump or uppertail coverts.  
Whisker stripe less distinct than expected.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

White-crowned Sparrow im. - is clearly smaller + w/ no distinct black streaking or necklace, nor such plain sides to face; + has a duller darker bill, + more gray tint to face + breast, etc.

Fox Sparrow - is either too heavily streaked below, gray or too dark above, + with wrong bill color, too short a tail, etc.

All <sup>(winter)</sup> Longspurs - have some combination of; more color variations; more distinctive ear patches; + shorter tails, notched + with white; etc.

Note: My only other record of this species in se UT are of sightings by Gail Lea of 3 regularly eating the mixed bird seed at her Moab yard feeder during January + March of 1987.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

As with the white-crown's, it fed near or under dried weed clumps, tho it tended to more often keep brush or some branches over its head, making 1 or 2 two-footed scratching Kicks Towhee fashion (but less exuberant or continuous). During the occasional flighty spooks into the Russian Olive branches near or above the flock, it would perch within 5 ft of the ground + within the branches but with a clear view of us the observers.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Weedy brush + scattered Russian Olives along the low close banks of a 2-foot wide flowing irrigation ditch, adjacent to a weedy horse pasture.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

None distinguished.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

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Signature Nelson Boschen

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

My first ID of this species (tho I consider it an "easy" sparrow). Numerous white-crown's + white-throated's. No Foxes(!). One Lepland Longspur. Other two observers have both seen Harris' before.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

LINDA L. FAGAN Linda L. Fagan

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Gail Lea Gail Lea

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_