

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

COMMON NAME: Cassin's Sparrow

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Aimophila cassini*

DATE: 9 June 1999 TIME: 7:45 am LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 10 minutes

NUMBER: 1 AGE: adult SEX: male

LOCATION: Wah Wah Valley, Millard Co. 12.5 miles north of Highway 21.

LATILONG: 14 ELEVATION:

DISTANCE TO BIRD: 50 to 100 feet.

WEATHER: clear, light wind.

LIGHT CONDITIONS: bright, sun to my back.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD: Bird was very nondescript. About the size & shape of a sage sparrow that was observed nearby. Upper parts were brownish-gray with no prominent markings. Underparts were pale gray with no streaking or spots. Bill was short & conical. Eye black. Wings brown & unmarked. Tail was fairly long, brown, with rounded tip. White tip on outer tail feathers, not prominent.

SONG OR CALL AND METHOD OF DELIVERY: Song was given in flight. Song was 4 parts = 2 high notes + 2 lower notes, with the 2nd note extended teeter, seeeee, to, tee. Song was repeated 3-4 times/minute.

BEHAVIOR:

Bird would fly up from ground about 10 feet, sing, then fly back to ground.

HABITAT:

Semi-desert shrub composed of scattered shadscale, winterfat, black sage, & cheatgrass.

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED:

Other sparrows with unmarked breast: Brewers - smaller, forked tail, long buzzy song.
Grasshopper - very short tail, short buzz song
Botteri - song different - several chips followed by a trill.
Rubens-crowned - rubens cap & dark whisker stripe.
None of these sparrows sing in flight.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:

I have seen & heard many Cassin's & Botteri Sparrows in SE Arizona. Vary familiar with Brewers, Grasshoppers, & Rubens-crowned sparrow.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

NGS Birds of NA.

DESCRIPTION FROM: NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING , NOTES MADE LATER _____

FROM MEMORY _____

OBSERVER: Steven Hedges

SIGNATURE: *Steven Hedges*

ADDRESS: 306 W. 970 N.

CITY: Cedar City

STATE: UT

ZIP: 84720

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

none that day. Several later: Lew Wilkinson
Mark Stackhouse
Terry Sadler

DATE PREPARED: June 10, 1999

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO _____, DRAWING _____, TAPE , OTHER _____

I have a poor quality tape recording.

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 1042
CEDAR CITY, UT 84721-1042