

## UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

COMMON NAME: Cassin's Sparrow      SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Aimophila cassinii*  
 DATE: May 23, 2001      TIME: 5:45      LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 30 Minutes  
 NUMBER: 1      AGE: Adult      SEX: ?  
 LOCATION: 12.7 miles north of Highway 50-6 approx 1 mile east of the Nevada border. So of Gandy, Utah  
 COUNTY: Willard co.      LAT/LONG:      ELEVATION:  
 DISTANCE TO BIRD: 30 to 70 meters  
 WEATHER: clear, slight wind  
 LIGHT CONDITIONS: just before sunrise - getting fairly light.  
 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:

An overall grayish brown sparrow with some streaking of gray or brown noted on the back. lighter <sup>gray</sup> streaked breast & throat. fairly long tail which was rounded and dark brown. pale outer border of the tail was visible.

The most distinctive I.D. on the bird was the ~~call~~ song. I have familiarized myself with the song listening to Peterson's bird song tapes. I have also heard the song of the other Cassin's sparrow found in Utah in Wah. Wah valley a few years ago.

The song. The song starts with 2 notes followed by a long descending trill then ends with a short note then higher note



The song was given in flight usually as the bird took off from the ground

SONG OR CALL AND METHOD OF DELIVERY: already given in detail above

BEHAVIOR: the bird would fly up from the ground give its song fly a short distance and land again

HABITAT: this was desert habitat. I first heard the bird in fairly a thick greasewood area then sighted the bird beyond the greasewood in sparse desert shrub.

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED:

I relied primarily on the song and behavior of this bird for identification. while I was able to get some visual I.D. on the bird's shape & color markings I wasn't able to get I.D. on bill size & shape or detail on facial coloration, color of lores, supercilium etc; or other specific details. Other sparrows possibly found in the area include Brewers (different song, no pale outer tail feathers, shorter tail, different behavior) Vesper (while it has white outer edge to tail its pale gray, streaks on breast, different song, behavior, tail not as long or rounded. I know the botheris sparrow is very similar and I was able to observed near the song of the Cassin's sparrow located in Wasatchan Valley a few years ago. while I've never seen a botheris I know it has a different song and there are no records this far south.


PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:

REFERENCES CONSULTED

Peterson's bird songs of the west  
Sibley guide to birds  
National Geographic field guide to N.A. Birds

DESCRIPTION FROM: NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING X, NOTES MADE LATER \_\_\_\_\_, FROM MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_

OBSERVER: Terry Sadler

SIGNATURE: 

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CITY: Murray

STATE: Utah

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OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

DATE PREPARED: June 19, 2001

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO \_\_\_\_\_, DRAWING \_\_\_\_\_, TAPE \_\_\_\_\_, OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN THIS FORM TO: UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
1581 NORTH 1040 WEST  
OREM, UT 84057

OR EMAIL TO: matt@utahbirds.org