

RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION Records of Vermont Birds

The following form has been prepared to encourage full documentation, when requested, of rare or unseasonal birds in the state of Vermont. These reports are put into a permanent file and should be as detailed as possible. New reports are reviewed annually by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which evaluates records for their acceptability to future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list.

Please print or type

SPECIES: Swamp Sparrow

NUMBER OBSERVED: 1

OBSERVER MAKING REPORT: OTHER OBSERVERS (and addresses if available) Kyle Jones

LOCATION: (place, township, county) Fox Stand, Royalton, VT Windsor County

DATE: 01/17/2015

TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: About 10:45 AM for 2 minutes

DISTANCES FROM BIRD: Maximum 35 Minimum 25

WEATHER:

wind direction _____ wind speed _____

sky cover clear light in relation to observer's position over my left shoulder as I was facing the bird—good
light temperature 5F

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: (make, power, etc.) Nikon Monarch 8X

OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:

Lots

OTHER DOCUMENTATION: Photo _____ Tape Recording _____ Specimen _____

If yes to the above, where is this information deposited? _____

HABITAT: (be as detailed as possible, include associated bird species)

Fallow field with annual weeds near the White River. Best place around for sparrows and finches.

BIRD'S BEHAVIOR: (feeding actions, manner of flight, displays or interactions, reaction to observer)

Stayed on the ground, in a depression in the snow, scratching and possibly feeding. Lots of weed seeds on the surface of the snow.

VOCALIZATION: (song or calls)

A thin "zeet" was heard before finding the bird, not sure if it was this or another bird. Certainly no phoebe-like "chip".

DESCRIPTION: (Describe what you actually saw during the observation. We hope that observers will take field notes during the observation and before consulting field guides, etc. Additional pages with sketches and copies of field notes are encouraged.)

Notes from eBird submission, <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S21379523>:

In the weed patch with other sparrows and finches. Stayed on the ground while other birds flushed up. Medium-sized sparrow with unstreaked gray breast, brownish on edges, streaked back and unstreaked brown rump. Broad gray eye stripe. Ochre coloring on face, esp auriculars. Rufous in wings. Rufous in crown not nearly as prominent as tree sparrow. Bill all or mostly dark, not as much yellow as a tree sparrow. Heard a high thin "tseet" before finding the bird, but don't know if this was the source. Over a hundred sparrows and finches in the immediate area.

Relative size and shape:

Head (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape):

Feet and Bill (shape, color, length):

Upper back:

Lower back and rump:

Wings (shape, length, markings):

Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts:

Tail (shape, length, markings):

IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?

Song and Savannah somewhat similar structurally but both have streaked breasts, lack ochre coloration on face. Lincolns sparrow often confused with swamp but also have streaked breast, distinctive face pattern, eye ring, less likely to be here in January. Other plain-breasted sparrows like white-throated, tree, white-crowned larger, lack rufous in wing, ochre on face. Observer is familiar with all these.

COMMENTS: (was age or sex determined?, etc.)

This report was written from notes taken during _____ immediately after _____ the observation, or written from memory _____ (please attach copies of notes if available)

From eBird comments:

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NAME (print)_ Kyle Jones _____ SIGNATURE (not req'd) _____

MAILING ADDRESS lkjones13@gmail.com

DATE 01/17/2015

Return electronically (preferred) to: vbrc@vtecostudies.org or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055