

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

1 adult

3. Parish: Bossier

Specific Locality: Red River NWR HQ, pecan grove adjacent to parking lot.

4. Date(s) when observed: 26 January, 2020

5. Time(s) of day when observed: Twice from about 7:45am to 8:15am. Then again about 1:00pm.

6. Reporting observer and address: John Dillon, 183 Dance Road, Athens, LA 71003

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Terry Davis in a.m., later with Mike Musumeche and Malise Prieto. In afternoon, Gerry Click, Charlie Lyon, and Rosemary Seidler

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Originally found and photographed by Bill Wood about 9:30 am 25 Jan during LOS winter weekend but not identified until he showed his photos to Terry Davis that afternoon. Seen later by many, including Paul Conover, Dave Patton, Phillip Wallace, Larry Raymond, et al.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast and dreary early but no precipitation. Overcast but fairly bright in afternoon.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Alpen Rainier 8x42 binoculars in very good condition. Canon ultrazoom point and shoot.

11. Distance to bird(s): Both times about 25-30 feet.

12. Duration of observation: Both times about 60-90 seconds.

13. Habitat: Old growth pecan orchard near Arthur Teague Parkway and inside boundary of RRNWR HQ. NWR general habitat is oxbow lake from the Red River surrounded by periodically flooded lowlands and earthen levee. Pecan orchard had dense undergrowth of dewberry vines, elderberry, and other thick, brambly vegetation. Orchard about 80 ft deep by 300/350 ft long and tapering at north end.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird stayed low and hidden almost the entire time; would pop up to an odd CACH recording I got earlier in the day that I at first thought was the GCSP. Superficially similar but not slurred like GCSP.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

Large Zonotrichia sparrow with all drab gray/brown underparts and dorsal side very much like adult WCSP with plain gray/brown rump, black/brown/rufous patterns on wings, but with brighter, dotted wingbars. Face basically lacking any pattern, although photos show very thin white eye ring and a slightly paler coloration to the malar and throat. Central crown stripe bright yellow with black on either side and minimal yellow just above eyes against the black stripes. Stripes all ended about the midpoint of the crown. Head flattish with thick neck.

16. Voice: Did not vocalize.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Both WCSP and WTSP were present for comparison, but no other sparrow shows such a crown marking. After looking at photos and seeing the faint paler tones in the malar and throat, I was somewhat worried about a GCSP X WCSP hybrid. I have no experience with either. Photos of supposed hybrids online are almost identical to full GCSP, but I ask Cardiff, Dittmann, and Remsen their opinions. Cardiff responded that the bird looked fine to him for full GCSP; I didn't hear from Dittmann or Remsen.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, photos by me. Attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: Zero.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation: Some online photos of hybrids just to be sure.

21. This description is written from:

memory

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes.

23. Date: 3 February, 2020

Time: 1:30pm

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? _____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____



01/26/2020 12:55



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