

Louisiana Ornithological Society's  
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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach Xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names:

Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*

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

One individual, sex unknown, presumed adult in winter plumage.

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) (specific locality)

Bossier Parish, Headquarters Unit of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge.

4. 4. Date(s) when observed:

01/29/2020

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

Approximately 10:10 AM initially, and briefly, a couple of times after until about 10:50 AM.

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jay V. Huner  
428 Hickory Hill Drive  
Boyce, LA 71409

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):

Dr. Willie Matthews

8. Other observers who Independently identified the bird(s):

Bill Wood, Dr. Charles Lyon, Larry Raymond, Ronnie Maum and many others.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Subdued light because of overcast, foggy conditions. No shadows.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Zeiss 10 x 42 Binoculars Conquest HD.

11. Distance to bird(s):

About 40 yards.

12. Duration of Observation:

About two minutes for initial viewing. Roughly a minute for two additional viewings.

13. Habitat:

Outside slope of Red River levee extending into an abandoned pecan orchard. Ground covered extensively by briar patches. Levee well maintained grassy landscape.

14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observations (flying, feeding, resting; including and stress habits in identification: relate events surrounding observation):

Bird came to base of pecan tree at the edge of levee where lawn maintenance ended. Was seeking feed that had been previously spread in the immediate area. Obviously in the company with a small flock of White-crowned Sparrow and loosely associated with Lincoln's and White-throated sparrows.

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):

"...Seen from frontal view for about a minute. Apparent winter plumage adult. Very distinct golden crown above a black border. Breast and throat dull grayish brown. Assumed to be the same bird found in area 1/25/2020. It was in company with small flock of White-crowned Sparrows. First observed at base of large pecan tree foraging with cardinals, blackbirds and other sparrows on bird food. Later seen briefly flying in and out of briar tangles at edge of abandoned pecan orchard. Bird did not readily pose in the open as did other sparrow species associated with the area."

16. Voice:

Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Adult Golden-crowned Sparrow is unique.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?):

None. Dr. Matthews supplied images to eBird for the report.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have seen Golden-crowned Sparrows in Oregon and Alaska. I reported an immature Golden-crowned Sparrow from Ascension Parish, Louisiana some years ago and submitted a Long Form for that event.

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

- a. at time of observation: Kaufman's Field Guide, National Geographic Field Guide.
- b. after observation: Peterson's Field Guide.

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_notes made during the observation (notes attached?); \_\_\_notes made after the observation (date: 01/29/20 – see eBird description above); \_\_\_\_\_ memory.

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

Yes.

23. Signature of reporter \_\_\_Jay V. Huner\_\_\_ date 02/05/2020 time 6:15 PM