

A HENSLOW'S SPARROW IN NORTH DAKOTA — On 9 and 15 June 1981 we observed a singing male Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) on a Waterfowl Production Area near Woodworth, North Dakota (Stutsman County, T142N, R68W, Sec 9). During both observations the sparrow sang almost continuously from a forb perch above the surrounding vegetation. We did not see or hear another Henslow's sparrow in the area.

The sparrow was on a dry upland site in a seeded stand of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) and intermediate wheatgrass (*Agropyron intermedium*). The vegetation was tall (about 0.75-0.9 m) with scattered tall (1.0-1.5 m) forbs.

This cover was similar to that described as the preferred habitat of Henslow's sparrows. Henslow's sparrow territories in Wisconsin were characterized by tall forbs and dense vegetation (Wiens, J.A. 1969. An approach to the study of ecological relationships among grassland birds. Ornithol. Monogr. 8:1-93.). Weedy prairies and meadows, neglected grassy fields, and pasturelands that are often dotted with low shrubs or bushes have also been described as the summer habitat of this species (Graber, J.W. 1968. *Passerherbulus henslowii henslowii* (Audubon). In Life histories of North American cardinals, grosbeaks, . . . sparrows, and allies, by A.C. Bent et al. (O.L. Austin, Jr., ed.). U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237. Part 2.). Henslow's sparrows will occupy unmown timothy (*Phleum pratense*)-clover (*Trifolium* sp.) hayfields and, unlike the site where we observed the sparrow, prefer low lying, damp sites (Graber 1968).

Henslow's sparrows occur in North Dakota accidentally (Stewart, R.E. 1971. Check list of birds in North Dakota. Prairie Nat. 3:3-12.). According to Graber (1968), the Henslow's sparrow is a casual visitor to northwestern North Dakota. Henslow's sparrows were considered to be a "tolerably common summer resident" in McKenzie County (Larson, A. 1928. Birds of eastern McKenzie County, North Dakota. Wilson Bull. 40:100-110.). The western edge of its breeding range extends from southwestern Minnesota, extreme eastern South Dakota, western Iowa, southeastern Nebraska to eastern Kansas (Johnsgard, P.A. 1979. Birds of the Great Plains: breeding species and their distribution. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska. 232 pp.).

There are only three previous records of Henslow's sparrows in North Dakota. One observation was in McKenzie County (Larson 1928), another was near Kenmare on 22 September 1962 (Nero, R.W. 1963. Northern Great Plains Region. Aud. Field Notes 17:40-44.), and the other was in the Sheyenne National Grasslands on 5 July 1978 (Faanes, C.A. 1981. Northern Great Plains. Amer. Birds 35:952-955.).

Even though we saw a Henslow's sparrow twice in the same area within a week, we do not believe the observations are indicative of a breeding pair because the sighting was so far from the Henslow's sparrow known breeding range and we did not see a female Henslow's sparrow in the area.

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