

# FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE \_\_\_\_\_

## SIGHTING OF A GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW AT DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

**Editor's Note.** The following field note is transcribed directly from notes made in the field and represents yet another example of a possible format for reporting a rarity.

January 14, 1990, 2:30 P.M.

Description of sparrow seen in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, Smith's Neck Road at the end near Salter's Point.

Bird was first observed by GWG when it flew up from the side of the road to the top of a low stone wall and was tentatively identified as a Golden-crowned Sparrow. It then flew over the wall to the lawn of an octagonal, windmill-type building where it fed with two Song Sparrows.

Observed in good light—sunny—for ten to fifteen minutes by both GWG and JBG. The birds were still on the lawn when we left.

- Sparrow similar in size and aspect to a White-crowned Sparrow; larger than the Song Sparrows.
- Dull gold color from above the bill to the middle of the top of the head and between two dark brown streaks on the head.
- Fine dark streaks through the top of the head.
- Throat under the bill dirty white.
- Nape gray.
- Breast and belly gray.
- Dark brown streaks down the back.
- Light lower mandible seemed to curve upwards.
- One narrow white wingbar.
- Long tail.
- Brown rump.
- Orange legs.

Based mainly on the first two items above, we concluded that the bird was an immature Golden-crowned Sparrow. The bird most closely resembled the immature shown on page 404 of the *National Geographic Field Guide*.

George W. Gove, Ashland  
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