

Some of the clues for the December "At a Glance" bird are helpfully obvious: it is a breeding adult, and it does not nest on the ground. The latter clue helps to eliminate the Lark Sparrow whose similar but more strongly accentuated face pattern led us to consider it briefly. The head pattern of our bird shows a white or very light median stripe on the dark crown. White eyebrows and malar stripes frame cheek patches that are outlined above and below with black. There is also a black whisker mark. The unstreaked nape and sides of the neck are obviously lighter than the head or dark-streaked back. The white or whitish underparts appear unstreaked. The tail is somewhat obscured by foliage but does not appear to show any white.

We have seen this bird only once in breeding plumage on a trip to the Dakotas ten years ago, but a trip through available field guides convinced us that we had a Clay-colored Sparrow.

Pat Fox and Mary Baird, Lexington

Photo by L. H. Walkinshaw



Clay-colored Sparrow

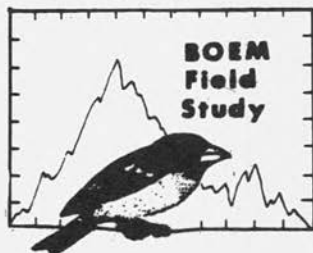
CONGRATULATIONS!

The winner of the At a Glance contest and the recipient of the PRIZE, a new National Geographic Society field guide, is

OLIVER KOMAR.

..1984 SPRING MIGRATION WATCH..1984 SPRING MIGRATION WATCH..

For the fifth consecutive year, Bird Observer will sponsor a Spring Migration Watch in which volunteer observers across eastern Massachusetts will pool data from their favorite birding sites. Observers are needed who can visit a site at least once every four days during late April and May. Anyone interested in participating this year should contact Lee Taylor, 92 Brooks Avenue, Arlington, MA 02174, for instructions and data forms.



At a Glance . . .

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



Can you identify this bird? Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*. Bird Observer will again award a PRIZE to the reader who submits the most correct answers in 1984. Please send your entry on a postcard to Bird Observer, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178 before the answer is published in the next issue.



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