

Example of a completed Species Verification Sheet (SVS)

Mr D. Harebottle	
Attached an Information Sheet for a species you have reported, as well as a blank ORF Verification sheet. This species has been evaluated to be out of its known range of occurrence. Please verify the details of this species account and inform the relevant regional coordinator of its accuracy.	
Please submit this verification sheet to Dave Allan (alland@durban.gov.za)	
Card number:	2845_3135_000073_20090728
Species reference number:	786
Species name:	Cape Sparrow
Number of individuals seen:	Two
Age and Sex (if known):	Male and Female; age unknown
Exact location' (e.g. farm name, protected area, closest town. Provide GPS coordinates if available)	
Closest town Nqoleni, about 25 km NE of Eshowe. Approximate coordinates: S28.781 E31.621	
Habitat in which species was observed:	Rural dwellings in disturbed (transformed) grassland adjacent to small dam.
Which other species were alongside:	Indian Myna, Bronze Mannikin, House Sparrow
Optical Aids:	Binoculars 10 x42
Previous experience with species:	Very familiar with species from suburban and rural south-western Cape and Gauteng
Please describe the salient features of the bird that led to your conclusion regarding your identification. Please also include any behavioural aspects or call descriptions that aided your identification.	
Their call first alerted me to that of a 'sparrow'. Both birds flew past and the easily recognisable dark head and throat with white "C" was seen on the male.	
Please indicate why you were able to exclude other similar species.	
No other sparrow has the completely black head and throat and white 'C' over the ear coverts.	

Was the bird photographed? (if Yes, please submit photos)	Yes/ <u>No</u>
Was the bird call recorded? (if Yes, please submit sound clip)	Yes/ <u>No</u>
Light conditions and visibility:	Good
Certainty of identification:	100%
Should you find that the species number, and/or the pentad is incorrect, please notify the project directly at michael.brooks@uct.ac.za .	
Thank you	