

MYERS

CONTRIBUTOR: Robert K. Myers

OTHER OBSERVERS: _____

SEASON: SummerYEAR: 1981

WEATHER/HABITAT: describe any unusual features at bottom of page

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Black-crowned night heron	1	July 5	Dudgeon Lake Wildlife Area
✓ Least Bittern	3	July 6	Sweet Marsh - Francis Moore saw 5 on July 5
✓ American Kestrel	at least 11	July 26	west of Hudson - these birds were not present all summer
✓ Sora	1	July 6	Sweet Marsh
✓ Greater yellowlegs	1	July 26	west of Hudson in Grundy Co. - bird was traveling with a Great Blue Heron (seemingly)
✓ Lesser yellowlegs	2	July 26	west of Hudson
✓ Solitary sandpiper	2	July 19 July 26	Big Marsh west of Hudson
✓ Western Kingbird	2	June 13	around Forney's Lake
✓ Least Flycatcher	1	July 6	Sweet Marsh - Francis Moore found adult feeding
✓ Black+white warbler	1	June 13	young on July 5 → north of Waubensie State Park
✓ Prothonotary warbler	1	July 5	Dudgeon Lake Area
✓ Cerulean warbler	3	July 4	west east of Vinton along Cedar River
✓ Yellowbreasted chat	1	July 4	Dudgeon Lake Area
✓ Summer Tanager	1	June 13	Waubensie
Blue Grosbeak	2	June 13	Freemont Co.
✓ Clay-colored sparrow	1	July 11	Volga River Rec. Area - Francis Moore found bird again on July 26

Robert K. Myers

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BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Clay-colored Sparrow 2. Number 1
3. Location Volga River Rec. Area
4. Date: July 11, 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 7:00 AM. to 7:15 AM

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

1. Small sparrow - about like chipping sparrow
2. Breast + belly were very light gray ^(offwhite) - back + rump were brown - no spots or markings on breast
3. Crown had a whitish thin stripe thru center - crown was brown
4. A brown triangular cheek patch was easily seen just behind eye
5. Bill was pale



Bird was found by song - it sang continually the whole time I was there -

7. Description of voice, if heard: Four monotone buzzes the first being longer than last three - (somewhat nasal tone) - buzzzz - buz buz buz
8. Description of behavior: First sighted in a larger cedar tree, then moved to lower shrubs and continued calling. - acted very territorial
9. Habitat - general: a clearing in otherwise quite dense woods along old road
specific: 1 cedar tree in opening and many sumacs and other short (10') trees

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

The only real probable problem is the imm. chipping sparrow but song + brown rump ruled this out

11. Distance (how measured)?

closest was about 20' by stepping off

12. Optical equipment:

Bth 7x35 roof prisms

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Sky was bright overcast - sun was not a factor

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen clay-colored in western Iowa in migration but never in the east or in the summer.

15. Other observers: _____

16. Did the others agree with your identification? _____

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Francis Moore found bird again by song on July 26 in same place.

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

No books were needed for this one.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 week

Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.

Date: July 26, 1981 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa 50701