

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

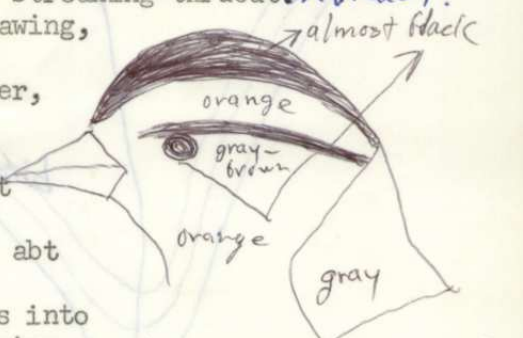
1. Species Sharp-tailed Sparrow 2. Number: four

3. Location Hendricksons Marsh - Story County- Iowa

4. Date: 3 October 1984 5. Time Bird seen: 1st bird 1 pm; fourth bird 2 pm to \_\_\_\_\_

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): below is drawing made from,

memory, before looking at book, of the first bird's head. back was very dark with white stripes; throat, breast & sides orange; belly white; fuzzy streaking thruout on breast. bird1: seen 1 pm abt 3 minutes; went back to car & made drawing, then checked bird book. bird2: seen 1:15 pm abt 30 sec. On way back thru area where I saw bird 1, I saw two together, & assuming one was bird 1, I call them birds 1 & 3. Saw together abt 15 sec's. Followed 1 & saw another min; went to where other went & saw it abt 30 sec more. Went to west



7. Description of voice, if heard: side of Hendricksons Marsh & saw another (bird 4) 2pm abt 30 sec's. heads of all 4 like drawing.

8. Description of behavior: Flew up & dropped back into weeds, generally; but sometimes into taller weeds: could often ~~lx~~ get their attention by squeaking.

9. Habitat - general: Marsh specific: three on east side of Hendricksons Marsh in weeds abt 1 foot tall: One on west side in weeds 3-4 feet tall.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: Le Conte's Sparrow has light stripe thru crown & doesn't have white stripes on a very dark back. *seeing first bird.*

11. Distance (how measured)? bird 1: 15-50 feet (flew) bird 2: 25 ft; bird 3: 15-60 ft (flew); bird 4 20 ft. 12. Optical equipment: 7 x 35 binoculars 1-3 20X80 binoculars, 2 & 4

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): generally birds 1,2,3 bird to my north, sun south; bird 4 bird east of me; sun south.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Saw three one spring in South Dakota.

15. Other observers: none; *went back later in day with Joe Schauffenbuel & found one.*

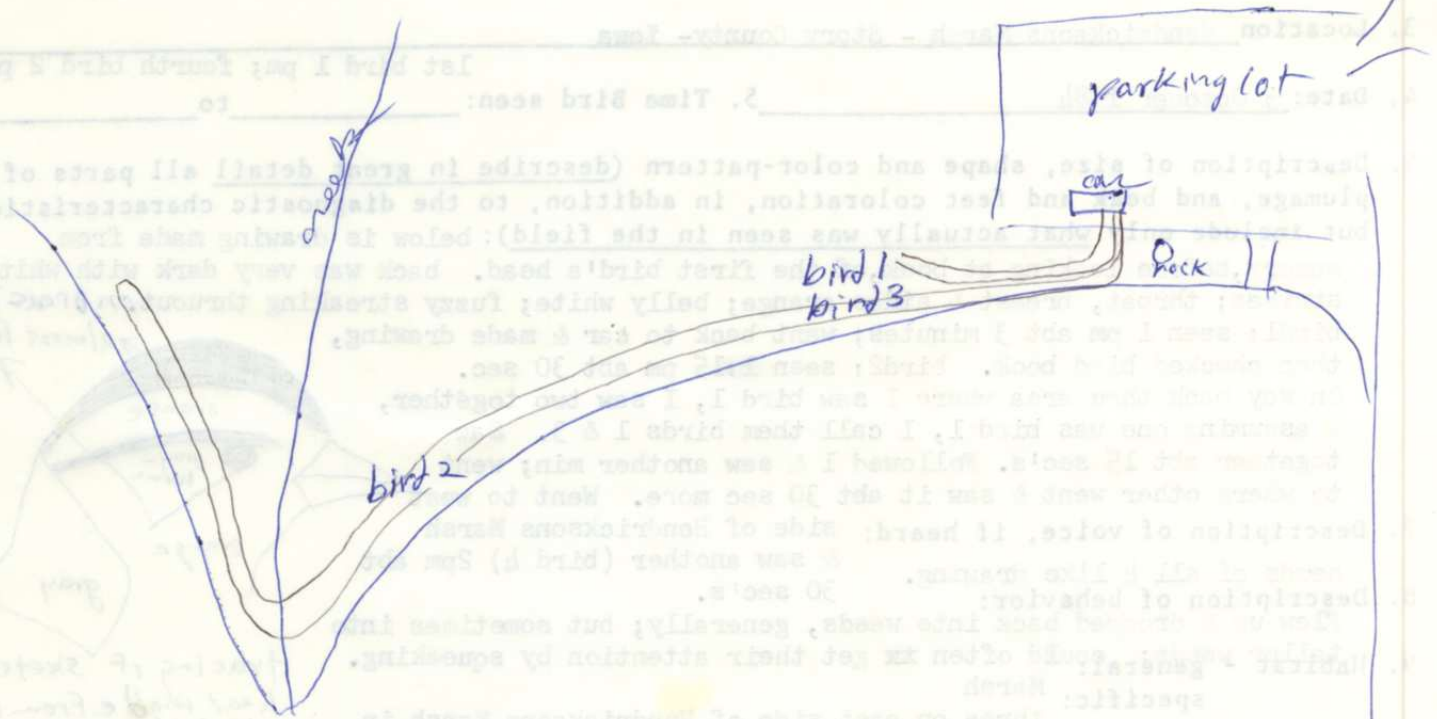
16. Did the others agree with your identification? 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Field Guide To The Birds Peterson Birds of North America Golden Press drawing & extensive notes made before looking at books.

9. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? drawing & most notes made between first bird & second bird. typed up 3 hours later.

Signature *Carl Martens* Address: 1120 Marston  
Date: 3 Oct 84 City, State: Ames Iowa 50010

east side of Hendrickson's Marsh



from car to west & saw bird 1  
 Returned to car & made drawing & notes & checked  
 went back to west & saw bird 2. Continued on  
 away then came back - when got to  
 area where saw bird one, I saw two  
 together - I assumed one was same as  
 the first bird (birds 1 + 3) both flew &  
 I followed one & checked it out good & then  
 went to where the other one flew & checked  
 it out again. Bird four was on the  
 west side of Hendrickson's.

road