

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

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

3. Location Hendrickson Marsh, Story Co.

4. Date: September 22, 1984 5. Time Bird seen: approximately 3:00-3:05 pm

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): sparrow size bird - I immediately was attracted by the creamy orange above and below the eye and on the unstreaked upper breast. I then noticed a gray triangle behind the eye. Gray was also on the unstreaked nape of the neck. The cap of the head was dark and unstreaked. The belly was an off-white with streaking under the wings. The back of the bird was dark with two visible, distinct white lines (drawing of bird taken in the field is attached)

7. Description of voice, if heard: none

8. Description of behavior: When flushed, the bird would fly very low for about 30-40 feet and then dive back into undercover

9. Habitat - general: marsh edge
specific: broadleaf plants - chest high

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

LeConte's Sparrow has streaked crown - it also has streaking in the gray nape of the neck - it has a light colored back with indistinct white streaking

11. Distance (how measured)?
10 yards (estimate)

12. Optical equipment:
20x scope 8x40 binoculars

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

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
none

15. Other observers: the following saw birds in this area at a later date
Paul Martsching, Joe Schaufenbuel, Mark Proescholdt

16. Did the others agree with your identification?
yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
above mentioned

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

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
Written from field notes taken the same day
Hank Zaletel Address: 715 West

Signature

Date: _____ City, State: Colo, Iowa 50056

