

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Sharp-tailed Sparrow

How Many?1

Location?Big Wall Lake, Wright Co.

Habitat?in wet, grassy area at north end of marsh

Date?14 Sep 1986

Time?4:15-4:25 P.M.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:The bird was a small, dark sparrow in with several LeConte's Sparrows. As I flushed the bird several times and got one good look at the perched bird, I noted the following marks. The underparts and face were a warm buffy color. The wings were dark brown and unmarked. The tail was fairly short and dark. The legs were light colored. The back was very dark, almost black, and had several conspicuous white streaks running down the back. While perched, the bird had a noticeable grayish nape. The crown pattern was three-toned with a light median stripe and a dark streak on either side of the median stripe. The rest of the face was a lighter buff color.

Similar species and how eliminated:LeConte's Sparrow eliminated by the lighter back color, lack of a gray nape, and different head pattern.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were good, although the looks were quite brief. Estimated viewing distance was 15-30 feet. I used Nikon 8 x 23 binoculars.

Previous experience with species:I have seen one other Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Iowa plus several in Massachusetts and North Dakota.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?3 days