

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Sharp-tailed Sparrow How many? 2Location? Snake Creek Marsh - Greene Co. - north of RippeyType of habitat? Natural cat-tail marsh surrounded by prairie grassWhen? date(s): Sept. 14, 1986 time: 3:00pm to 3:20pm. (off-ton)Who? your name and address: Bob Myers, R.R. 2, Box 153 Perry, Iowa 50280

others with you: _____

others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Three birds were found in different places. First two were definitely separate but third may have been one of first two relocated. (I'll call it 2 birds)

BIRDS were chunky sparrows with short tails. The median crown stripe was dark gray with brown stripes on either side giving a dark solid cap look. The face, throat, ~~and~~ upper breast and flanks were a bright orangish-yellow. A brownish ear patch was noted. The breast + flanks had fine ^{darker} streaking. The nape of neck was gray - unstreaked. Back was darker brown with 4 white stripes. Belly was white.

Similar species and how eliminated: Dark crown with no light central streak eliminates the Le Conte's Sparrow as does the larger size and somewhat darker color.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Excellent - couldn't have been better. Both were viewed at min focus (about 18') with 10x40 Lites from all angles. Bright overcast day.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: First + only was last year at same place on Sept. 30.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NONEHow long before field notes made? NONE MADE this form completed? 1 day

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