

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Sharp-tailed Sparrow How many? 1Location? Sugar bottom area Johnson Co.Type of habitat? marsh edge of lake sandy soilWhen? date(s): 9-30-87 time: 9:40am to 8:45Who? your name and address: THOMAS J. STANLT 1503 SHERIDAN AVE. IOWA CITY

others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

others before or after you: Jim Fuller, Tom Kent, call BERNIE KNIGHT

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.

smaller than nearby swamp sparrows

very buffy, noted even in flight

dark crown with a light central strip - difficult to see  
buffy face w/ thin black line in auricular area coming  
off the eyes

buffy breast and sides, sides lightly streaked - dark

Nape gray, unstreaked

white streaks on dark back.

white belly

SEEN again on 10-3-87 w/ Tom Kent  
Leconte's information, comparison based on that sighting

Similar species and how eliminated: Leconte's sparrow has lighter upperparts  
more buff above eye, crown is prominently streaked. Auricular area is light  
gray, on sharp-tail this is buffy w/ a dark streak.

nape on Leconte's has chestnut streaks, Leconte's has more pronounced side streaks.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

overcast 20 ft stepped off 8x

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

2 previous sightings of sharp-tail - yearly spring sightings of Leconte's

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? at sight this form completed? 1 week