

AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species sharp-tailed Sparrow 2. Number 6-individuals
 3. Location McIntosh Wildlife Area, Clear Lake, Iowa
 4. Date: 22 April 1982 5. Time Bird Seen: 10:00 to 10:10 AM

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 sized 4 1/2" - 5 1/2" in length, short narrow tail feathers, definite dark cap with no streaking, orange to yellow eye stripe with connecting V-shaped projection below eye, gray area just behind the eye. Bushy breast with faint streaking and with a white belly. Leg color was not detected.

7. Description of voice, if heard: - Not Heard

8. Description of behavior: Stayed very near ground, running in front of us and only taking very short flights, however not very alarmed at our presence.

9. Habitat - general: lowspot in Hay field

specific: Wet area in Brome and alfalfa field, with very little residential cover, due to winters snowfall.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: Le Conte's - No stripes on crown + triangle on face was very evident.

11. Distance (how measured)?
30 feet (Paced off)

12. Optical equipment:
7x35 Binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Clear sky, bird to the north of observers + sun to the east.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Positively identified on birding expeditions with Graduate class covering fall birds in North Central Illinois, while at Northern Illinois University.

15. Other observers:
Ronald D. Andrews + Bill Ohde

16. Did the others agree with your identification? YES

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Robbins et. al. to confirm initial opinion on sighting.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1-month

Signature: Fred Heiny Address: Iowa Conservation Commission

Date: 16 June 1982 City, State: Clear Lake, Iowa.