

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species: Sharp-tailed sparrow 2. Number: 2
3. Location: Sand Point on Coralville Reservoir, N. of Iowa City, IA
4. Date: 26 Sept 1976 5. Time Bird seen: 4:20 PM to 4:45 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): Small sparrow, with large head + short tail. Face, upper breast + sides orange-yellow, slightly darker than the color of the color of corresponding areas on ad. LeConte's. Upper breast, sides had dark streaking. Face-patch ^{iron} grey, with a darker border above + below. Crown had 2 wide lateral stripes of dark brown, with a wide central grey stripe. Wings + tail dark brownish. Back brown ^{song} feathers having darker centers, with light, whitish streaks running down back. Bill + legs brownish.
7. Description of voice, if heard:
8. Description of behavior: skulking in dense waist-high weeds. very shy compared to LeConte's seen in same area.
9. Habitat - general: extensive weedy flats - waist to head-high on shore of reservoir.
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Crown-pattern rules out Henslaws (lacks grey crown stripe) LeConte's (has narrow white stripe), Grasshopper, Baudin's.
11. Distance (how measured)? ~20' (estimated) 12. Optical equipment: 8x32 binocs.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
grey drizzly day with no sun to speak of
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: seen many sh-t.'s in Atlantic coastal marshes (Mass. - Va.). have seen many grasshopper sp., some Henslaws (Md. Va., IA) and a few LeConte's (Mass., Fla., IA).
15. Other observers: C.S. Newlon, ~~R. DeLoach~~, C. + B. Knight.
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: none consulted for identification. Did open Robbins + Zin thereafter to show Knights, who had never seen sh-t., the difference in crown pattern between sh-t and the numerous LeConte's.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? field notes made on the spot. This revision 5 d. later.
Michael C Newlon Address: 408 Wales St

Signature

Date: 30 Sept 1976 City, State: Iowa City, IA 52240