

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Clay-colored Sparrow How many? 1Location? Emmet Co: TLOON, R34W, Section 34.Type of habitat? Pasture dotted with shrubs and young treesWhen? date(s): 19 & 20 July 1984 time: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_Who? your name and address: David Ewert, Nature Conservancy, 424 Tenth St. - Suite 311  
Des Moines, IA 50309others with you: Bob Moats, RR3, Estherville, IA 51334  
Gary Phillips, 15 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St, Estherville, IA 51334

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.

Bird heard singing 19 July 1984 by Ewert. Seen and heard singing on 20 July 1984 by Ewert, Moats & Phillips. Light crown streak, dark face patch and clear underparts clearly noted. Song diagnostic. Only one bird seen but behavior over two days (same area, song etc.) suggests possibility bird was territorial or wandering bird seeking a female.

Apparently first recent summer record for NW Iowa.

Similar species and how eliminated: Chipping Sparrow - immature lacks the clean face patch and distinct crown-streak pattern of Clay-colored Sparrows. Song distinctive, immatures wouldn't be singing crystallized song.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Bird seen with both a spotting scope and 7x35 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Ewert familiar w/ on breeding grounds in Michigan and South Dakota (June 1984).

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 1 day this form completed? 4 days

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