

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Sharp-tailed Sparrow How many? 2

Location? Sugar Bottom, Coralville Res., Johnson Co., IA

Type of Habitat? Weedy edge of reservoir

When? date(s): 27 Sept 1987 + 3 Oct 8:30-8:45 A.M. time: 1:30 to 2:30

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA 52240

Others with you: Tom Standt on 10/3

Others before or after you: Jim Fuller, Claude Fuller, Col 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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

"Short, frayed tail. Dark cap, ochre supercilious line, darker overall than LeContes" seen a little later. Second bird seen had bold dark stripes on back and scapulars. "Saw several birds, but had brief looks at two as described above. Whole cap looked dark, but not seen head on. LeContes had light upper parts and yellowish face with heavy eye

3 Oct "Dark cap - no median stripe; bright white stripes on back + scapulars; ochre supercilious; gray nape; black eye-line widening at auricular area; buffy throat and upper breast with fine streaks on sides; white underparts; smaller than Snowy Sparrow in same field."

LeContes seen nearby 15 min later: "overall lighter, median brown stripe easy to see, buffy breast without streaks; black auricular without median eye stripe; back streaks but not with white."

Similar species; how eliminated: Both LeContes + Sharp-tail were present.

I saw LeContes in more open upper area and Sharp-tailed in woods near or in water.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
If yes, explain:

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

9/27 10x binocs, 30 ft. good light, but birds only in view briefly

10/3 10x binocs, 20 ft., early morning sunlight behind us.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Seen once

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? at end of viewing this form completed? 2 hrs

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).