

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

1983

What species? Sharp-tailed Sparrow How many? 1Location? marsh edge - Marshall CountyType of habitat? marshy low ground - permanent ^{small} marshWhen? date(s): May 22 time: 4:00pm to 4:03 p.m.Who? your name and address: Ramona R. SommerlotOthers with you: Ron Nelson

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.

Sparrow sized bird flew from short grass on edge of field ^{west} next to marsh. Landing on fence wire. Sat facing us - 25' with sun on bird. Noticed different pattern on side of head immediately - deep yellow almost ∇ shaped surrounded grey patch inside - top of head dark. Looked solid. Slightly buffy breast - fine streaking on breast & darker on sides of breast. Back - ^{bluish} blurry streaking. * tail - couldn't see how it ended. No song.

Similar species and how eliminated: Le Contes - white stripe on head
head pattern not same. Saw Le Contes at forney at ^{IOWA} conference

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

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
25' - sun shining on bird 7x35 Bushnell

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description: field guides - & Rev Cummins seminar sheets on Sparrows of Iowa
 How long before field notes made? Immediately this form completed? May 26 '83

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