

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555

June, 10, 1996

Jim Waldie
526 Smedley Road
Media, PA 19063

Dear Jim,

Thank you for submitting details on the Clay-colored Sparrow you saw in Media, Delaware County on 9 November 1994 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt that the documentation submitted does not adequately rule out the possibility of a winter plumaged Chipping Sparrow. Most committee members would have preferred a description of the rump color to make an adequate determination. This does not mean of course, that the bird was not a Clay-colored Sparrow, merely, that the details did not allow for a concrete determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

8/4-5/1994
Record # ~~731-01-1994~~

P.S. If it is any consolation, I voted for acceptance

814-02-1995

Report of Clay-colored Sparrow

Date: Thu 9 November 1995

Time: 4:00 PM

Place: Media, Del Co.

Weather: Partly cloudy, low-mid 40's, wind 10-15 mph

After work on Thursday afternoon I was watching the birds at my feeders from my kitchen window. I was watching a Fox Sparrow on my gravel driveway when two smaller sparrows about 8 feet away caught my eye. At first I thought they were both Chipping Sparrows. On closer observation I realized the one bird was quite different.

My vantage point was from above the bird and about 8-10 feet away. I observed a dark (brown) crown with black streaking and a distinct buffy central crown stripe the entire length of the crown. This bird had lighter gray on the nape and sides of the neck, The back was more gray than brown and had black streaks.

The bird was lighter underneath - more white or buff than gray. The bird had a distinct cheek patch and an obvious white malar stripe between the ear patch and a faint, dark ~~whisker~~ whisker stripe. I was unable to get a clear look at the rump (as the bird had its wings folded over it) but I did not see any contrast

814-02-1995

between the rump and the back.

I was only able to watch the bird for about two minutes before it flushed. Neither it nor the Chipping Sparrow returned, the Fox Sparrow however did.

Optics used: Zeiss 7x42

No other observers were present.

Respectfully,

James C. Waldie

526 Smedley Ave.

Media, PA 19063

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*)

Date of Sighting: 9 November 1995 to 9 November 1995

Location: ~~MEDIA~~

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): James Waldie

Date of Submission: 1995

Submitted by: James Waldie

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas				X				
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater						X		
R. Ickes				X				
G. McWilliams				X				
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein							X	
TOTALS			2	3		1	1	
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. C. Haas

Date:

5-1-96