

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

2469 Hammertown Road

Narvon, PA 17555

September 26, 1997

Gary Freed
1132 Walters Road
Pennsburg, PA 18073-1933

Dear Gary,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Clay-colored Sparrow you saw at Green Lane Reservoir on 8 October 1995 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee was concerned that the description provided did not supply enough detail of the bird's plumage to effectively rule out similar species (Chipping Sparrow). The description lacked details regarding color of the lores or rump or a more detailed description of the ear patch and facial pattern

This of course, does not mean the bird was not a Clay-colored Sparrow, merely, that the record is not beyond reasonable doubt for acceptance

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 when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

Record # 814-03-1995

P.S. Gary, if it any consolation, I voted for acceptance.



814-03-1995

PORC

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES/HIGH NUMBERS

~~CBC Name~~ _____ Date _____ Compiler _____
Observer writing this account & date Gary L. Freed 10-8-95

SPECIES Clay-colored Sparrow NUMBER, AGE, SEX 1
Distance from bird(s) 30' Relative size of bird Swamp Sparrow size

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line, etc.)
gray nape extending forward below cheek, brown crown with white central stripe, brown ear patch with whitish stripe above + below
EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.) see above
also brownish whisker line

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES _____

LEGS & FEET _____

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts, etc.)
buffy brown, streaked

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum, etc.)
rather light, pale unstreaked much lighter than Swamp Sp. and Savannah Sp. in its flock

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.)

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading & trailing edges, etc.)

VOCALIZATION
BEHAVIOR sat on top of tall dead weeds in wet meadow

Date of observation 10-8-95 Time 8:30 a Weather pt. cloudy sky bright
Duration of observation 20 seconds Bird - Sun orientation sun at my back
Exact location Church Rd, Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery Co, PA
Habitat wet meadow Other observers Larry Rhoads
Optical equipment B+L binocs 10X42
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS first local record

AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH CAN BE MOST HELPFUL

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: 8 October 1995 to 8 October 1995

Location: GREEN LANE RESERVOIR

County: MONTGOMERY

Observer(s): Gary Freed

Date of Submission: 1995

Submitted by: Gary Freed

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		2		
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary): *J. C. Haas*

Date: 2-22-97