

814-02-1996

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

Spizella pallida

Location: Presque Isle State Park

Date: May 15, 1996

Time: about 1:00 or 2:00 PM

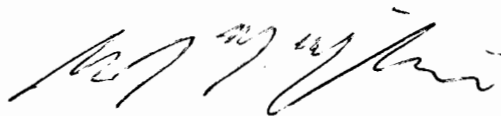
Weather: Variably cloudy, wind southwesterly to approx. 15 mph

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular

Viewing distance: As close as 15 feet

Details of sighting & description: Feeding independently and occasionally with 5 or 6 Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*), and 2 Field Sparrow (*S. pusilla*) was a Clay-colored Sparrow. The sparrows were feeding in short grass and bare ground in Beach 11 parking lot. The Clay-colored was slightly smaller than the other *Spizellas*. It seemed larger headed and shorter tailed than the Chipping Sparrows. The entire bird was buffy-gray with dark streaking on the back. The head was prominently marked. The top of the head was medium brown with a white central stripe. The cheek was medium brown surrounded by white. The white throat was separated from the brown cheek patch by a dusky whisker stripe. The gray nape was distinctive. The rump was brownish unlike the pure gray rump of the Chipping Sparrow. The bill was pinkish yellow similar to the Field Sparrows bill. The underside was unmarked brownish-gray. I took about 60 photographs of the Clay-colored Sparrow. The bird remained in the Beach 11 parking lot until at least the next day and was seen by at least 15 birders. I have seen 6 or 7 Clay-colored Sparrows all of them in Erie County.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: **15 May 1996 to 15 May 1996**

Location: **PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK**

County: **ERIE**

Observer(s): **Jerry McWilliams**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Jerry McWilliams**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **YES** 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	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. C. Haas

Date:

2-22-97