

514-04-1996

Clay-colored Sparrow

10/9/96

at

Tyler Arboretum

While birding at the Tyler Arboretum on October 9, 1996, I ran across a mixed flock of sparrows. The flock consisted of Song Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows and one Clay-colored Sparrow. The following is a description of this one individual.

I managed to find the Clay-colored Sparrow by first noticing the bird in flight. As the flock flew away from me I noticed that one bird had an obvious brownish colored rump, whereas the Chipping Sparrows all had gray rumps. I then followed the flock to where they landed and again found this bird with the brownish rump. Upon further observation I noticed the facial pattern was quite distinct. The black eye stripe on this bird extended backwards from the eye but there was no forward extension onto the loreal area. The ear coverts were a tawny coloration and was outlined in black on the top and rear portion of this patch. The bottom of the ear patch was not distinctively outlined with a black stripe but instead ran into the white moustachial stripe. This leads me to believe that the bird was in basic (winter) plumage. The supercilium had a buffy wash, not white, like in breeding plumage bird. The crown had a non-distinct stripe but nevertheless the stripe was present. The nape was a gray coloration with no striping on it. As mentioned earlier the rump was a brownish color, ruling out the possibility of this bird being a Chipping Sparrow.

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

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

Date of Sighting: 9 October 1996 to 9 October 1996

Location: TYLER ARBORETUM

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): Al Guarente

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Al Guarente

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					
P. Schwalbe			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
S. Feldstein						X		
J. McWilliams			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
TOTALS			6			1		
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date:

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of 2

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

Date of Sighting: 9 October 1996 to 9 October 1996

Location: TYLER ARBORETUM

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): Al Guarente

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Al Guarente

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

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					A	B	C	
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N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein						X		
TOTALS			6			1		
DECISION								

Comments:

Send to second round.

Signature (Secretary):

F C Haas

Date:

8-16-97