



814-01 -1997

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

Spizella pallida

Location: Presque Isle State Park

Date: May 8 to 19, 1997

Time: late morning and through the afternoons and early evenings.

Weather: Cloudy and clear conditions

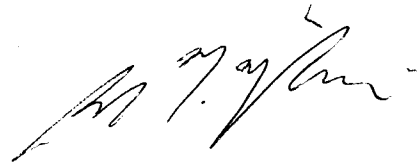
Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular and Kowa TSN 4 spotting scope at variable magnifications

Viewing distance: As close as 15 feet

Details of sighting & description: Feeding independently and occasionally with several Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*), and Field Sparrows (*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 many photographs of the Clay-colored Sparrow. See enclosed photograph. From at least the 17 to the 19 of May, there were two birds present. One bird occasionally sang which was a series of buzzes: bzzz-bzzz-bzzz-bzzz-bzzz-bzzz-bzzz.

I have seen and photographed many 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: 8 May 1997 to 19 May 1997

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1997

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							
P. Schwalbe	X							
K. Parkes	X							
R. Ickes	X							
P. Hess	X							
J. McWilliams	X							
T. Floyd	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J C Haas

Date:

4-19-99