

RARE SPECIES REPORT

814-03-1997

SPECIES: Clay-colored Sparrow
Spizella pallida

NUMBER SEEN: one

SIGHTING DATE: 11 May 1997

SIGHTING TIME: 8am to 8:20 am

LOCATION:

COUNTY & STATE: Centre Co. Pa.
DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN:
Bald Eagle State Park, Refreshment Stand above beach area
DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE:

HABITAT: First spotted picking among small stones on a dirt road. Area was surrounded by mowed grass, widely space trees (maple sp. and spruce sp.) and small brushy area.

SIGHTING CONDITIONS:

LIGHTING: mostly sunny
DISTANCE: 20 to 30 yards.
EQUIP. USED: 10x50 swift binoculars
LENGTH OF SIGHTING: 20 min.

DESCRIPTION:

VOICE: 3 to 6 evenly spaced buzzy notes
SIZE: apx 5" long.
PLUMAGE: Brown crown w/ white crown stripe. white supercilium. Brown ear patch was very conspicuous. Dark whisker stripe surrounded by white throat and white between ear patch. Gray nape. Brown back w/ black streaks. Brown rump. Brown tail w/notch. The wing coverts and secondaries were brown w/buff edges. Brown primaries. Plain light buff breast. No wing bars or eye ring.
ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): Short sparrow-like bill. Pinkish with the upper mandible being darker. Short legs were brownish.
BEHAVIOR: This bird feed with apx. 15 Chipping Sparrows all in breeding plumage. This bird was scared away by people searching for soda cans in the dumpsters and trash cans.

FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: I have seen 5 Clay-colored sparrows in Pa. and many in South Dakota.

COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: Chipping Sparrows has a rufous crown w/ no crown stripe in breeding plumage

HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? no IF SO, BY WHO?

Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? Maybe Jonathan Heller

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space): Jonathan Heller brought apx. 80 yards away. I had heard it but I first thought of my Golden-winged Warbler. I just thought I wasn't hearing the 1st note. After we heard no 1st note we quickly located the sparrow feeding on a dirt road w/ 15 Chipping Sparrows.

SIGHTING & REPORT BY: Randy C. Miller

ADDRESS: 607 Woodland Dr. PHONE #(717) 664-3778
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SIGNATURE Randy C. Miller DATE: 14 May 1997

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: 11 May 1997 to 11 May 1997

Location: BALD EAGLE STATE PARK

County: CENTRE

Observer(s): Randy Miller

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Randy Miller

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

Comments:

Signature (Secretary): *F. C Haas*

Date: *4-19-99*