

814-05-1998

SPECIES: Clay-Colored Sparrow DATE SIGHTED: 9/19/98

SIZE, SHAPE, and PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

It was the size of a Chipping Sparrow (maybe slightly larger) with a distinctive pattern to the crown. White median stripe with brown and black strips on each side. The neck in the back was gray, the rump was brown. The face had a distinctly outlined cheek patch that was tan color. The breast had a buff appearance but the throat was white.

Why is it not a Chipping Sparrow?

Chipping Sparrows, which were present have a gray rump. not brown but reddish with no white median and no black stripes. Winter birds have a brown cheek patch, but it is not outlined. They also do not have buff on the breast.

BEHAVIOR:

The bird was migrating with 43 or more Chipping Sparrows and a mixed flock containing, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, E. Bluebird, and others. They responded to the call of a Screech Owl that I was making - and not very well.

NUMBER, SEX, AGE:

1 bird, probably male (bird was so bright and sharp), an adult

LOCATION:

The junction of Township Road 483, Metz Road and Township Road 308, Jefferson County, Pa.

CONDITIONS, TIME, WEATHER, OPTICS, EXPERIENCE:

I was using my Leica 8 x 42 binoculars. It was mostly sunny and about 65 degrees. Wind was slight. The bird was just on the side of the road and I could see it off and on for about 10 minutes. It was easy to compare it with both summer and winter plumaged Chipping Sparrows. It was in a flock of 43 Chipping Sparrows. I have experience with Clay-colored Sparrows.

ANY OTHER OBSERVERS? No

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL, DATE OF WRITE-UP:

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The original write-up was on 9/21/98 from notes made on 9/19/98.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 19 September 1998 to 19 September 1999

Location: ROUTES 483 AND 308

County: JEFFERSON

Observer(s): John Fedak

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: John Fedak

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDED NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman			X					
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
J. McWilliams			X					
B. Reid			X					X
P. Rodewald			X					
TOTALS			6					2/1
DECISION								

Comments: *Hotz C/O/L*

Signature (Secretary):



Date: *9/28/00*