

Cater melisioris

#830-01-1988

Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Crawford County

by Ed Kwater

While birding at Geneva Marshes on Sunday October 8th 1988, Mark van der Ven and I located an unusual sparrow with a small group of Song Sparrows (Melospiza melodia) and Swamp Sparrows (M. georgiana) feeding in willows and cattails along the east side of Watson Run Road. After obtaining close views of the bird we identified it as a Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Ammodramus caudacutus of ~~the~~ the inland race, nelsoni.

The bird was noticeably smaller than the accompanying Song and Swamp Sparrows with a much shorter tail and a boldly marked plumage pattern. It had a broad gray central crown stripe with thinner blackish-brown stripes bordering this and separating it from very pronounced bright buff supercilia. The cheeks and nape were the same shade of gray as the crown, the color extending from the nape around the sides of the neck.

The chin, throat and breast were bright buff joined to the supercilia by buff stripes at the rear of the cheeks. There was a small, indistinct central breast spot and indistinct brown streaking at the sides of the breast. The rest of the underparts were pure white with a sharp demarcation between the breast and belly. The mantle, scapulars and coverts

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

Date of Sighting: **October 8, 1988**

Observer(s): **Ed Kwater**

Date of Submission: **1988 Crawford**

Submitted by: **Ed Kwater**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Leberman			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

3-24-91