

24 April, 1999

Paul Rodewald  
School of Forest Resources  
302 Forest Resources Lab  
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Paul,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow you saw in Crossingville on 9 October, 1996. The record circulated the committee for two rounds. After careful review and much discussion, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt the description was not detailed enough to eliminate Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed beyond reasonable doubt. This does not mean of course that the bird was not a Nelson's Sharp-tailed, merely that the details did not allow for a definite determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

For the Committee,  
Roy A. Ickes, Chairperson

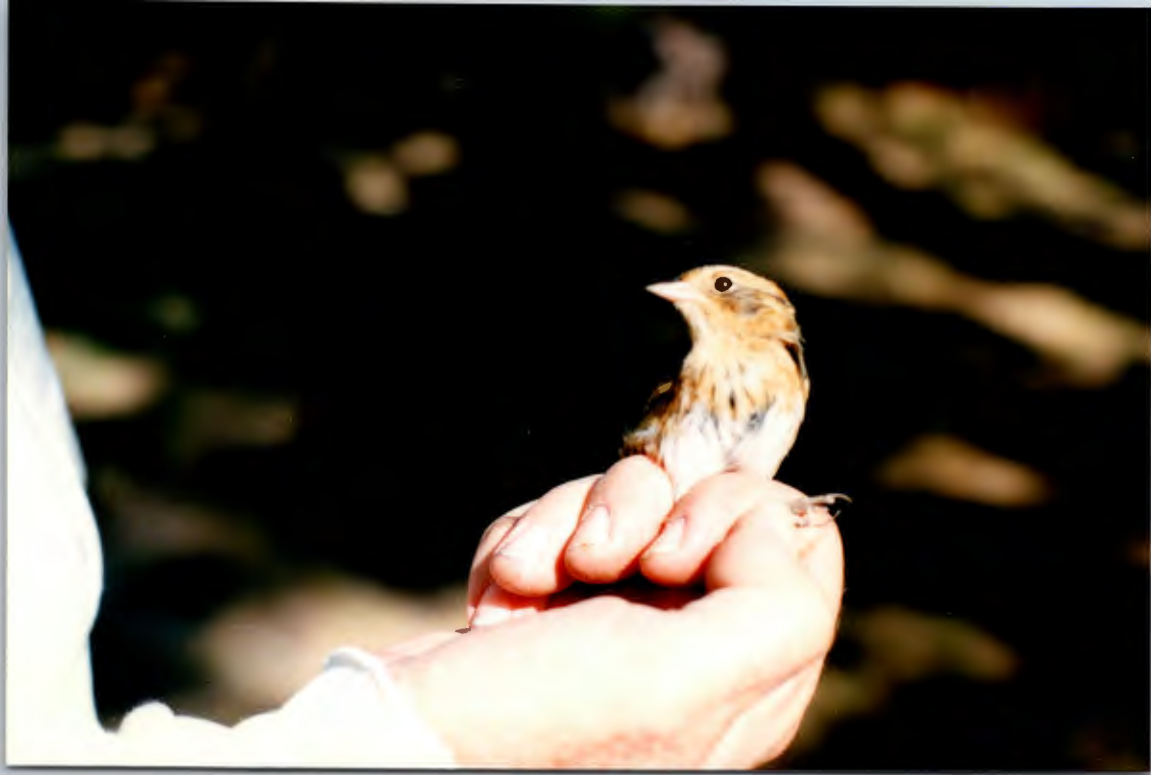
Record # 830a-01-1996













830A-01-1995

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW IS BANDED AT PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK  
ERIE COUNTY, ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

By Ronald F. Leberman

DATE: September 27, 1995

LOCATION: At the birdbanding station just south of the  
Niagara boat ramp, along Erie Bay shore.

HABITAT: The typical mix of brushy, shoreline including bittersweet  
, button bush, milkweed ~~and~~, poison ivy and a few mid sized  
cotton wood trees.

OBSERVERS: Mrs. Robert (Sally) Senger, Ronald F. Leberman.

DETAILS: At 8AM on Wednesday September 27, 1995 Sally Senger  
and I set up to band birds. A short net was added to our reg-  
ular usual 12 nets streaching from the path to the bay extending  
about two feet in the bay. (This was the net that the sparrow  
was caught in). With a slight breeze and sunshine the day  
looked very promissing. After an hour of banding mostly White-  
throated Sparrows Sally returned to the banding table with  
a sparrow that she said was different. As soon as I saw the  
bird I knew it to be a Sharp-tailed Sparrow, we identified  
it to be (AMMODRAMBS CAUDACTUS NELSONI) or Nelson's race of  
the Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The bird was banded and determined  
to be an Adult Male, with little feather wear. Several  
photographs were taken and the bird was released, we had held  
the bird for a total of about fifhtteen minutes.

DISCRIPTION: The bill was short and conical, horn colored on  
top and yellowish below. The iris was brown. The crown as  
dark chesnut mixed with black and had a gray stripe from crown  
to the nape and gray ear coverts. The side of the head was  
a rich buff with a bright orangish triangle on the face. the  
upper breast was buffy and lower breast was white. The sides  
of the breast were buff with very distinct dark brown and  
black streaking. The back was dark brown and black with  
several specks of white. The tail with dusky dark streaks edged  
with buff-olive on the outer feathers. It was narrow and sharply  
pointed. The under tail coverts were buffy.

PAST RECORDS: While <sup>this</sup> species would be considered expected  
at Presque, each fall, records have been few and often far apart.  
Most all are sight records from the 1930's to the 1970's.  
More recently there is arecord of 1 at P.I. near Gull Point  
Oct. 1 1981 (Jerry McWilliam). One was collected at Powdermill  
Nature Reserve (westmoreland Conty) Oct. 3, 1972 (Robert C.  
Leberman). and one from Conneaut Marsh (Crawford County) on  
October 8, 1988 by (Ed Kwater).

REFERENCES: AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION - 1957 A  
Checklist of North American Birds, 5th Edition  
AOU Washington, D.C.

Kwater, Ed - PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS - Vol. 2, Issue  
#4 page 129.

Leberman, Robert C. - BIRDS OF THE LIGONIER VALLEY  
1976 Carnegie Museum of Natural History Publication  
3.

Parkes, Kenneth C. - PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS Vol. 6  
#1 page 13.

Stull, Jean, Jim  
McWilliams, Gerald BIRDS OF ~~E~~RIE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA  
1985 Allegheny Press, Elgin, Pa.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

Date of Sighting: 27 September 1995 to 27 September 1995

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Ronald Leberman

Sally Senger

Date of Submission: 1995

Submitted by: Ronald Leberman

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							
N. Pulcinella	X		<del>XXXX</del>					
E. Kwater	X		<del>XXXX</del>					
R. Ickes	X							
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe							X	
S. Feldstein	?							
TOTALS								
DECISION	?							

Comments: I'm not sure how to count Steve's vote.

Signature (Secretary): *F C Haas*

Date: 2-22-97