



830A-03-2000

Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow

Shortly after 4 p.m. on 10/24/00 and then again on 10/25/00 and 10/26/00, I saw a sparrow at SGL039 Wetlands Restoration Area near Polk, Venango County, Pennsylvania. It was close to the water's edge and close to the ground. It had an orange face including a broad supercilium. No streaking was seen on the supercilium. Orange across the breast was the same color (intensity) orange as the face. The orange and overall body color was not as bright as the LeConte's sparrow I have recently seen. There was a medium gray ear patch and a thin orange eye ring. The top of the head was dark gray, outlined on either side by a thick dark brown line. There was no central crown stripe. The flanks were in places orange and in places grayish. There was extensive pale brown/grayish streaking on the flanks and breast. The streaks were indistinct. The center of the belly was off white with some faint gray streaking. The back of the neck was medium to dark gray extending onto the shoulders/lateral areas of the upper back and showed no streaking. The center of the back was medium brown with thin longitudinal white lines. I think there were 4 white lines. These white lines were made from rows of tiny white feathers oriented in a parallel single row, oblique angle to the long axis of the back. The wings and tail were medium to dark brown and unremarkable except for some warm orange feather edging, which I believe were on the tertials. The legs were pale but I could not tell the color. The bill was bone or horn colored turning dark on top. The lighting was adequate to good. It was seen multiple times for about a total of 2 minutes, as close as 12 feet away with 10X Leica binoculars. I have had only distant views of sharp-tailed species along the Atlantic coast years ago. But grasshopper and Henslow's sparrow are common here and recent experience with a LeConte's sparrow has prepared me to properly identify this species.

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## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Tabulation Form - Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 24 October 2000 to 24 October 2000

Location: POLK WETLANDS

County: VENANGO

Observer(s): Jerry Stanley, Gary Edwards

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Jerry Stanley, Gary Edwards

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

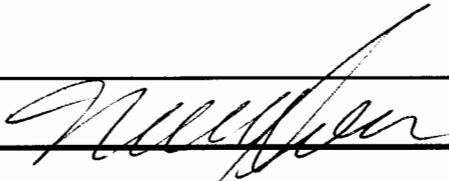
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess	X							
J. Stanley								X
B. Reid	X							
<del>B. Lebermann</del> <del>P. Redewald</del>								
M. Sharp		X						
TOTALS	3	1	1					1
DECISION	X							

Comments: 5/0/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 10/27/00