

RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: NEISON'S SHARP-TAIL SPARROW Date of this Observation: OCTOBER 21, 2001Date Found: OCT 21 Last Date Seen: OCT 21Location: PINE RUN RESERVOIRTownship/City: NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP County: BUCKSPerson Writing this report: KENNETH C. RIEKERAddress: 601 PERKIOMEN AVELAUSDAL, PA 19446 Phone: 215-3680854Other Observers: DEVICH FARBOTNIKWho found the bird first: DEVICH AND MYSELF

Other documentation Included: (Circle all appropriate items)(Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

Photograph

Audio Recording

Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored? _____

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed —Please do not write on back of this form)

8304-02-2001

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Person Submitting: Devich Farbotnik

Species: Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Observers: Found by: Devich Farbotnik, Ken Rieker

Seen By: Cameron Rutt, Barbara McGlaughlin, August & Judy Mirabella, Ian Baldock, Al Guarente

Date Seen: October 21, 2001

Where Observed: Pine Run Dam, near Doylestown, Bucks Co.

Conditions: Seen with 7X35 Bausch & Lomb binoculars & Leica APO Televid 77 scope w/20-60 zoom lens at approximately 5 to 100 feet.

Behavior & Habitat: Skulking in tall weeds and small scrub in and along a dry streambed running through a large mowed meadow adjacent to Pine Run Lake.. Flushed by pishing and walking through the grass. It would hop up very briefly and then dive down out of sight. Very difficult to see.

Description: The obvious sparrow had a striking back pattern. The most obvious marks were the four white streaks on the back; two on each side of the mid-back. The buff-orange breast had a sharply defined break with the white belly. The breast had streaking that was sparse and not sharp and dark. The throat was white. The crown was dark with a gray center. The face was bright orange. I did not remember flank streaks but they can be seen in the video.

Similar Species Comparison: Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow would not have the sharp break between the breast and belly and would have more sharply defined breast streaks.

Other Documentation: The video I took is dark due to lighting but with careful study, the marks noted above can be seen. Ken Rieker indicated he may also supply written documentation. Video and copy of documentation sent directly to N. Pulcinella.

Ken Rieker

830A-02-2001

On October 21, 2001, Devich Farbotnik and I were walking at Pine Run Reservoir looking for sparrows. We were following a small stream about 20-40 feet wide, that had a lot of long grass and weeds with scattered shrubs growing in it. While walking along this stream, we were kicking up sparrows, mostly Swamp, Song, and Savannah. We were nearing the end of the field when two birds flushed, and Devich exclaimed, "I think there is a sharp-tail." In a few seconds we again saw the bird. This time it emerged on my side, and I had a good look at it, enough to confirm that one of the birds was indeed a Nelson's Sharp-tail. In the next hour we had additional good looks, and Devich was able to videotape the bird.

Incidentally, the second bird seen was a Marsh Wren. Also, on October 15 of the previous year, a Nelson's was also found at the same location.

As to the details of the bird, the first thing that stood out was the bright orange triangle on the sides of the face, with grayish auriculars. This same orange-buffy color continued onto the throat, upper breast and sides of the bird. There was very little color contrast between the throat and malar region, (again a uniform orangish color). The buffy-orange did make a sharp contrast with the white belly on the bird. There was diffused and blurry streaking across the upper breast and sides of the bird, not the strong bold streaks found on the Saltmarsh Sharp-tail. The back was dark with white stripes.

We watched and videotaped the bird after alerting other birders we had seen earlier.

The sparrow continued in this high grass area, very reluctant to leave this cover. The bird would flush, fly a few feet, stop and look around, and then burrow into the high grass.

As far as I know, the bird was seen only the one day.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 21 October 2001 to 21 October 2001

Location: PINE RUN DAM

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik, Ken Rieker

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Devich Farbotnik, Ken Rieker

Written Description: Yes

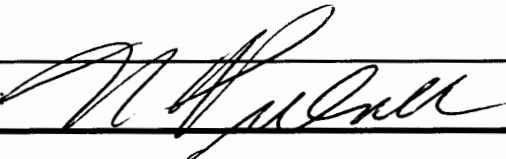
Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. ^{Heath} Couchman		X						
P. Hess					X			
J. Stanley		X						
B. Reid		X						
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp		X						
TOTALS	1	4	1		1			
DECISION		X						

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 8/28/02