

February 23, 2005

Neil Troyer  
890 Williamson Rd.  
Mercer PA, 16137

Neil

Many thanks for sending in the description of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow from Lake Latonka on September 23, 2001. The bird was almost certainly a Nelson', but with several reports of Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow in the state and a couple of accepted records it is necessary to rule out that very similar species. You adequately eliminated LeConte's Sparrow based on the lack of the pale central crown stripe but it seems no effort was made to rule out Saltmarsh.

Regardless, this reports definitely pertains to a Sharp-tailed Sparrow and as such will help establish the occurrence of these secretive birds in the state.

Sincerely

Matt Sharp  
Chair: Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

830A-03-2001

RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow Date of this Observation: 9/23/01

Date Found: 9/23/01 Last Date Seen: 9/23/01

Location: Lake Latonka Silt Basin

Township/City: Jackson Twp / Mercer County: Mercer

Person Writing this report: Neil H Troyer

Address: 876 Williamson Rd Mercer Pa 16137

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Observers: Harvey Jerry Melvin + Eli Troyer

Who found the bird first: Harvey + Jerry Troyer

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)

The buffy orange facial triangle and the gray ear coverts were used to from the Leconte's Sparrow. There was no central white crown stripe. The breast was buffy with faint streaking and the belly white. The upper parts were a medium brownish gray.

This is the second time we have found a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at this wetland - a small locality with cat-tails and marsh grasses, surrounded by stands of Golden Rod.

The Sparrow stayed well out of sight, but did offer several brief but excellent views when we "spished" it to the top of the reeds.

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Tabulation Form - Round One**

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

Date of Sighting: 23 September 2001 to 23 September 2001

Location: LAKE LATONKA

County: MERCER

Observer(s): Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Eli Troyer, Neil Troyer

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Neil Troyer

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

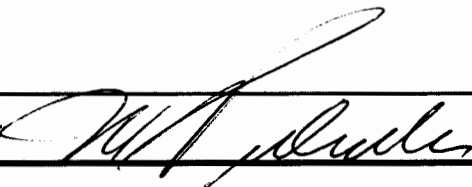
Specimen: No

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. Heathcote				X				
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer				X				
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp					X			
TOTALS			3	3	X			
DECISION				X				

Comments: 3/4

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

2/11/05