



Saltmarsh Sharp-tail Sparrow  
8306-01-2002 10/9/02  
Tullytown, Bucks Co  
Derrick Farbotnik

**PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM**

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

**Nick Pulcinella, Secretary**  
**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**  
613 Howard Ave.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

8306-01-2002

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**SPECIES** (common and scientific name) Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow - Ammodramus caudacutus  
**Subspecies** (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS** 1 **SEX(ES)** —

**AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S)** (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): adult

**DATE OF OBSERVATION** 10/9/02 **TIME** 2:20-2:50 PM

**LOCATION** (city, borough, township) Tullytown, Bucks County

**EXACT SITE** (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Waste Management Property near Pennsbury Manor

**OBSERVER REPORTING:**

Name Devich Farbshnik  
Address P.O. Box 135  
City Revere State PA ZIP 18953  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER OBSERVERS** (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

Jason Horn, Dave Wilton

**HABITAT** (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) dense grass about 1 foot tall with tall smart weed and patches of pfragmites

**DISTANCE TO BIRD** 20-25 feet

**VIEWING CONDITIONS** (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) cloudy

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED** Bushnell 10x Binoculars, Sony Videocamera

**DESCRIPTION** (Include as much detail as you observed – size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): What caught my attention was the bold streaks on the and the pale orange background to the streaks. This bird also had a white throat which contrasted sharply with the malar stripe and barely contrasted with the pale orange chest. The streaks were sharp and well defined.

Because of the light conditions, the video is not very good. The video doesn't show how bold the streaks on the chest were.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

**BEHAVIOR** (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) This bird was feeding in the grass when I flushed it. It then perched on the taller vegetation. It did this a few times.

**VOCALIZATIONS**

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:**

Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording  Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name me

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

**IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:**

General condition \_\_\_\_\_

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

**SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES** (how you eliminated others) there were 6-8 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows there as well for direct comparison. The Nelson's had orange chests with very washed out streaks or almost none at all. The Saltmarsh stood out with the bold streaks and the pale chest.

**DISCUSSION** – Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

**PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES**

I have seen them several times in New Jersey and have studied the books hoping to find one around here.

**ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION?** (why or why not) As you know, this is a difficult bird to separate from the Nelson's. I believe it was a Saltmarsh because of the field marks I saw, previous experience and comparing what I saw to the pictures in the book.

**REFERENCES CONSULTED:**

During observation Sibley

After observation Sibley, Sparrow book, National Geographic

**DATE OF THIS REPORT:** 3/21/03

**SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER** Derrick Terborgh

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Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name me  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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**DATE OF THIS REPORT:** 3/21/03

**SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER** Derrick Tenbrunke

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Tabulation Form - Round One**

Species: Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (~~Ammodramus nelsoni~~)  
 Date of Sighting: 9 October 2002 to 9 October 2002 *causant*  
 Location: TULLYTOWN  
 County: BUCKS  
 Observer(s): Devich Farbotnik

Date of Submission: 2002  
 Submitted by: Devich Farbotnik

Written Description: Yes      Photo: Yes      Specimen: No      Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
<i>R. Wilcox</i>								
<del>G. Armistead</del>				X				
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
B. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
<b>TOTALS</b>	6			1				
<b>DECISION</b>	X							

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary): *[Signature]* Date: *2/20/05*