

17-1984

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Species: Clay-colored Sparrow Date: 22 May 1984
Number: 1 Age: adult Sex: unknown

Locality (exact address or other specific information to describe location, such as x miles north of x intersection): brushy edge of alfalfa field on east side of Bluff

County: San Juan City: Bluff Elevation: ?

Time: ~ 1pm Length of time observed: 2 minutes

Habitat: edge of alfalfa field

Distance to bird: down to 25' Light conditions: good

Optical equipment: Nikon 12x40

Observer: Paul Lehman, P.O. Box 1061, Goleta, Calif. 93116

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

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DESCRIPTION. Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern color, and any unique features.

Identified bird virtually immediately. Knew rarity of it at time. Following is copy of notes taken day of observation:

"A spizella flushed from edge of alfalfa field; more boldly patterned than typical Brewers, with light median crown stripe, gray collar, distinct brown cheek, distinct pale malar stripe, and some pale brown (buff) wash to sides of breast."

Additional comment: overall the bird is a warmer brown color than a Brewers or imm. Chipping.

Voice and/or call notes: none

Behavior: perched!

Describe what specific feature(s) you saw and/or heard that caused you to come to your conclusions:

Overall warm coloration, bold patterning, gray collar, distinct whitish malar stripe, + buffy wash to breast sides, all clearly eliminate Brewer's + Chipping

What similar species might it have been, and how were these eliminated?

see above

What experience have you had with this and similar species?

seen a hundred or so Clay-colored in spring, summer, and fall (1 in winter)
"my hundreds (3 thousand?) Brewer's at all seasons; countless Chippings!

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

Significance of record in the area and/or the state:

1st spring record for state?

Additional material (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available):

Signature:

Paul Lehman

Address:

PO Box 1061, Goleta, Calif. 93116

Date prepared:

5 October 1984