

Species: CLAY-COLORED SPARROW
 Record No. 561-93-29

Location: BROOKINGS, CURRY CO.

Date(s): SEPTEMBER 20-24, 1993

| Observers | details | slides | prints | tapes |
|---------------------|---------|--------|--------|-------|
| COHIN DILLINGHAM | A | B | | |
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Specimen no. & location _____

Accepted 9-0
 verified ✓ 6-2
 Single rept. sighting _____
 Multiple rept. sighting _____

Not accepted _____
 origin questionable _____
 exotic not estab. _____

Records split _____

Records combined _____

Disposition

Secretary's File
 Main File A
 Slide File B
 Print File _____
 Tape File _____

Duplicate File
 details A
 slides B
 prints _____
 tapes _____

Date observer(s) notified: 12-17-94

561-93-29 A

RCO: 10-15-93

Colin Dillingham
437 Azalea Park Road
Brookings, OR 97415
503-469-9624
9 October, 1993

BIRD IDENTIFICATION:

1 immature clay-colored sparrow

DATE:

23-24 September, 1993. Phil Hicks also saw it 20, 21, and 22 Sept. It was searched for several times for next couple days without being seen. A clay-colored sparrow was seen here also on October 1 by Phil Hicks. He may have had two different clay-colored sparrows. At least 3 other clay-colored sparrows were seen in Southern Curry County during the first week of October, 1993. These other sightings were 1@ Dillingham's feeder 1-3 Oct in Brookings (submitted to OBRC), 1@ Munson's feeder by Don Munson on Oceanview Drive 5-6 October, and 1@ Gold Beach by Alan Barron on 5 Oct.

LOCATION:

Phil Hicks bird feeder, 634 Hawthorne Street, Brookings, OR 97415

DETAILS:

A small *Spizella* type sparrow and much smaller than adjacent *Zonotrichia* sparrows, song sparrows and fox sparrows. Overall this sparrow was brownish buff. The rump color was brown and was clearly seen due to the absence of some of the secondaries and tertials in the right wing. The head was patterned with a finely streaked crown with a central tan/brown crown stripe, light buff colored superciliary lines, a dark eyestripe running behind the eye (not to be confused with through the eye), a light colored loreal region, dark malar stripe and hind end of the auriculars gave a light cheek bordered in dark appearance. The eye was dark. A dark line bordered the light chin.

The nape was clean gray and contrasted sharply with the back and crown colors. The back was largely tan with dark streaks. The breast was buff, contrasting with the throat and belly. The undertail was white. The legs were pinkish. A particularly full breast gives clay-colored sparrows their own "jizz".

REASONS FOR IDENTIFICATION:

The small size and plumage characteristics bring this to the genus of *Spizella* sparrows. This sparrow lacked the dark lores of chipping sparrows. Chipping sparrows clearly show gray rumps and this bird's rump was clearly brown. Chipping sparrows don't typically show a defined median crown stripe like this bird showed. The eyestripe of this bird was as dark as the dark border of the auricular patch. Chipping sparrows would show a darker eyeline than the lower border of the auricular patch.

Brewer's sparrows are much darker above than this light colored bird was. They do not exhibit rich buffy breast colors like this bird did. Brewer's sparrows do not have clean gray napes like this bird did, as they often show streaks in their napes. Brewer's sparrows show mottled colors in the supercilium, this bird had an unmarked rich buff supercilium.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF OBSERVATION:

My wife received a call from Alan Barron about two interesting warblers at Harris' beach state park while I was out of town. When I returned late in the afternoon the next day, Phil Hicks and I scooted out to see if we could see these birds. After finding the prairie warbler and missing the

tennessee warbler, we went to Phil's house. He mentioned that he had an interesting sparrow at his feeder that he hadn't identified. When the sparrow appeared that evening, I recognized it as a clay-colored sparrow. I was careful to observe it closely as I have recently had one clay-colored sparrow report from Bandon be rejected by OBRC. I carefully noted the loreal region and rump color.

A quick "high five" followed because of the excitement of the warbler and the sparrow. What a day! I returned the next day and took one photograph of the bird.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF OTHER OBSERVERS

Phil Hicks, 634 Hawthorne Street, Brookings, OR 97415

Marion Chapman and Christi Loring of Brookings.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

The bird was photographed. One original slide is enclosed.

Calvin Wilson

9 October 1993

Clay-colored Sparrow 561-93-29

