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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: LeConte's Sparrow | Ammodramus leconteii
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date: November 9, 1991Number of birds seen: 6+ Sex: Unknown Plumage: AdultLocality: John Martin marsh (see below) Elevation: 3850' ±Nearest town: Fort Lyon County: BentTime observed: 6:45 AM - 7:15 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1 minute each for several different birdsOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
None Came back 3 PM Nov. 10th. Cool front moving thru - overcast, light rain. All birds in hiding.

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

First found Dec. 2, 1990 but marsh burned over completely in March 1991 so birds had to leave Mark Janos found 2 LeConte's this fall on October 12, 1991

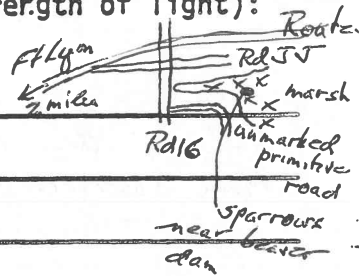
Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Good morning sunlight - mostly at my backOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8X binocularsDistance, and how measured: 100 to 300 feet est.If photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Birds popped up and sat on high marsh grass or cottonwood saplings to get some morning sun. Some gave weak chirps.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

A small sparrow with very small eyes. The most noticeable feature was the buffy upper breast. The white central stripe on the top of the head was evident when the bird looked down. The back was light brown and intricately patterned. I didn't notice any streaking on the sides, or any chestnut streaking on the nape. Probably I was

Description (continued):

not close enough. ~~The~~ Contrary to last year's description, the buffy-orange went entirely across the breast of these birds. The ~~eye~~ stripe above the eye certainly was not as buffy as shown in National Geographic.

There were 2 birds on ~~the~~ their north side of the beaver pond; 2 or 3 birds on the south side and farther east; and 2 birds farther to the south but east of the large clump of cottonwood saplings. I wouldn't be surprised if there are 10 or more LeConte's Sparrows in this little tall marsh grass area.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Some very weak chips after I had flushed some of the birds up and they were clinging to tall marsh grass. Much fainter, and almost inaudible relative to the Swamp Sparrows & Marsh Wrens nearby.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

The west end of John Martin Reservoir is a huge marsh now. Mostly cattails but this area, near a beaver dam, is primarily tall marsh grass with a few cottonwood saplings.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

There is no other small sparrow with a thin-white central crown stripe and a buffy upper breast. Sharp-tailed Sparrows have dark-brown backs.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

We found these LeConte's Sparrows in the exact same locality last year. Many observers saw them, so the identification is not under question.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: National Geographic: Birds of North America
& Golden Guide

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: November 11, 1991

Reporting observer: L. W. Jan Bridges Signature: L. W. Jan Bridges

Address: 1925 S. Jangha Way #207 Aurora, Colorado 80014

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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