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FRONT COVER: Gyrfalcons (*Falco rusticolus*) over the Stoltzfus Quarry, Lancaster County, March 14, 1982. — Photo by Alan Brady.

BACK COVER: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) at Cape May Point, New Jersey, August 20, 1983. — Photo by Serge LaFrance.

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at least one and probably two female Prothonotary Warblers on the edge of woods adjacent to our back yard in Berwyn, Chester County.

The plumage of the exhaustively studied individual was light yellow above the bill shading into yellowish-olive on top of the head. The yellowish-olive then shaded into a very dark gray or grayish-blue in the middle of the back. The wings, lower back and tail (except for tail spots) had the same dark color. There were no wing bars. A yellow stripe above the eye connected with the yellow above the bill and extended behind the eye. The side of the head was yellowish-olive.

Since the individual was almost continually in motion, on only a few occasions was I able to see a narrow, faint yellow eye ring. The throat and breast were pure yellow. The belly and undertail coverts were white. Rectangular white tail spots, estimated to be about 8 mm in length, were located in the outer tail feathers. A few narrow longitudinal blackish lines were evident in the tail spots. The second female was identical except that its eyering appeared to be a fainter yellow.

I visited the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia to study the skins of all species and hybrids with which these birds could be confused. With the assistance of Mark Robbins, it was determined that the only possible identification was that of the autumn female Prothonotary Warbler.

The West Chester (PA) Bird Club's ANNOTATED LIST OF CHESTER COUNTY BIRDS, 1979 states that the Prothonotary Warbler is casual in the county, that is, recorded one or two times in a decade but may be expected to recur. This record, then, represents not only a very late sighting of the bird, but an unusual one for Chester County.

— T. Doman Roberts, 430 Cassatt Road, Berwyn, PA 19312

A D.V.O.C. Rare Bird Report is on file.

Summer Tanager in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania: While birding on June 4, 1983 in a wooded section of Montgomery County, PA approximately 2-3 miles northeast of Sumneytown, we found a male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). The bird, in full red plumage, was observed in good but overcast light on at least three occasions that day. The day was somewhat overcast with a threat of rain (it did rain round 5:30 p.m. There were southwest winds, 5-10 mph. A 22x scope, 7x and 10x binoculars were used. The bird's song was recorded also.

The Summer Tanager's characteristic "hiccup call" was repeated from a number of singing perches in the area. From observations made that day, by Ms. Tyrrell the next day, and Fingerhood and others on subsequent days, we were able to establish that the bird had proclaimed for itself a sloping territory approximately 300 yards long by 50 yards wide along and within a power line cut through an oak-hickory-maple woods which bordered the "cut". The open area between the wood edges had low, scrubby growth predominately of multiflora rose and other low, spiny plants.

On the first day, at least, the bird repeatedly gave its call notes. Because the call is diagnostic (pers. comm., Mark Robbins), it is worth describing here.

The bird repeated the call 8-10 times per minute from an open perch around 2:30 p.m. The call sounded like the tanager had a mild case of the hiccups and could quite properly be dubbed the "Hiccup Call" of the Summer Tanager. The call randomly varied between a three and two-part call, as follows: *hic-cup-cup* and *hic-cup*.

The bird was last observed on June 18. At no time was there evidence of a resident female Summer Tanager or breeding behavior other than that already described.

— Edward D. Fingerhood, 2002 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130

— Lucy Tyrrell, 1515 Northwest Boulevard, Apt. B, Columbus, OH 43212

Lark Sparrow in Lancaster County, PA: On January 9, 1982 I observed a Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) at a feeding station at my home on Peach Lane, Ronks, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. I first observed it at 11:15 a.m. and saw it at various

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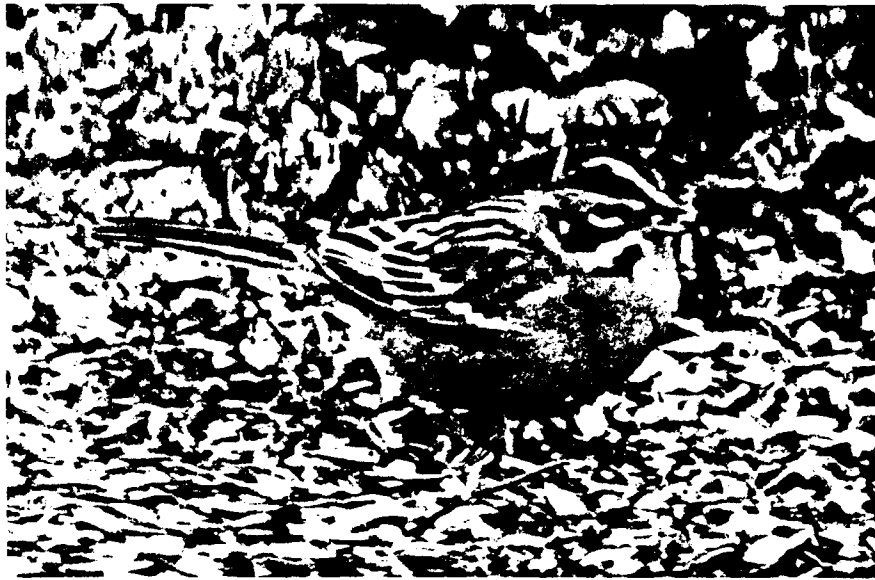
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times throughout the day until 3:15 p.m. It was not seen again. The Lark Sparrow fed on cracked corn which was scattered on the lawn at one of our two feeding stations. It normally fed in conjunction with a mixed flock of ground feeding birds which included approximately 24 White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), 12 Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*), 5 Northern Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*), 5 Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) and 1 Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). It seemed most closely associated with the White-throated Sparrows. The Lark Sparrow was observed by a total of eight people during its brief stay and photographed by Rom Schutsky (my father) and Fred Habegger.

Beck (1924) lists no record of the Lark Sparrow in Lancaster County as far back as the early 1840's. Carl Ernst reported one near Rohrerstown, Lancaster County, May 11, 1958, (Morrin, 1984). Jay George observed one in Manheim, Lancaster County, January 24, 1976 (ibid). Poole (1964) says the Lark Sparrow in Pennsylvania is, "A very rare breeding summer resident and casual transient in the western counties, even more rare in the southeastern section of the State (6 records)." An additional sighting since Poole was made along the Delaware River in the mid-1970's (Keith Richards, pers. comm.). Lark Sparrows have been observed in Pennsylvania from late March through mid-October (Wood, 1979). The two January sightings in Lancaster County appear to be the only winter records in Pennsylvania.

This species formerly bred as far east as State College in central Pennsylvania (Bent, 1968); it now reaches only the western edge of Ohio (Peterson, 1980). Its normal winter range includes central Texas, southern Louisiana, and central Florida south to southern Mexico and El Salvador; it occasionally winters along the Atlantic coast as far north as northern New Jersey (Bent, 1968). Northern coastal records are mainly from Christmas Bird Counts. Very few January or February records exist away from its normal wintering grounds.



Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*),
Ronks, Pa., January 9, 1982
Photo by Fred Habegger

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- Robert M. Schutsky, Muddy Run Ecological Laboratory, P.O. Box 10, Drumore, PA 17518

Lark Sparrow at Tinicum, Pennsylvania: While checking for hunters in the area behind the Philadelphia International Airport on October 22, 1982, I flushed an adult Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) from along the side of a weeded road. All field marks were seen well on this bird.

— John C. Miller, 1220 Prospect Avenue, Prospect Park, PA 19076

Harris' Sparrow at Tinicum National Environmental Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: On Friday, May 13, 1983, during the May Roundup, Stephen R. Wing and I were on the old trolley car bed of the Center at approximately 9:00 a.m. It was partly cloudy, cold (38° to 40° F.) and windy (15-20 m.p.h.) Most birds were staying low to the ground. Steve and I were observing White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) when we noticed that one sparrow was about one inch longer and heavier than the other birds. Its bill was pink and the face just above the bill was black. The black gradually changed to brown on the crown. Brown streaks continued down the nape. There was also a small bit of black under the bill, but the throat was white. The ear patch was buffy. There was a prominent black breast patch below the white throat which began to fade to white at the belly and under the tail. The sides were streaked with black. The tail was a nondescript brownish-gray.

The big stranger would sometimes hop into the brush two to three feet above the ground as it slowly worked its way southward along the trolley bed. It fed on the ground, hopped into the brush, back to the ground and so on. We watched this routine for 15 to 20 minutes before continuing our May Run. Michael Logan, who was birding nearby, also saw the bird we identified as an immature Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*).

— Harry W. Todd, 925 Collenbrook Avenue, Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Bake Oven Knob, Pennsylvania: At 8:40 a.m., EST, on September 23, 1982, while on the North Lookout at Bake Oven Knob, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, I observed two female Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) at close range flying southwestward along the Kittatinny Ridge. The birds were a close match with the illustration in the Fourth Edition of Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* and appeared shortly after a flock of some 400 Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) disappeared from view after passing the lookout.

Earl L. Poole (*Pennsylvania Birds*, 1964: 59) considered the Yellow-headed Blackbird casual at scattered locations in Pennsylvania. Prior to this sighting there is one earlier hypothetical Lehigh County record of this species by Tom Fegeley in March 1977 in Emmaus, Pennsylvania (*A Field List of the Birds of Lehigh County*, 1979: 9).

— Donald S. Heintzelman, 629 Green Street, Allentown, PA 18102

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # / of

Species: **Lark Sparrow**

Date of Sighting: **January 9, 1982**

Observer(s): **Robert Schutsky**

Date of Submission: **1991 *Leicester***

Submitted by: **Robert Schutsky**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater	X						
B. Haas	X						
F. Haas	X						
R. Leberman	X						
G. McWilliams	X						
S. Santner	X						
P. Schwalbe	X						
TOTALS	7						
DECISION	X						

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

8-15-91