

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
nickpulcinella@verizon.net

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) Lark Sparrow Chondestes grammacus
Subspecies (if known) _____

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

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 1/28/09 **TIME** 8:45 AM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Butler, PA Penn Twp

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Crisswell Rd

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Joshua Davis
Address 284 Crisswell Rd
City Butler State PA ZIP 16002
e-mail (optional) jdavis03@zoominternet.net phone (optional) (724) 256-8437

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

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Seen at feeder in the yard
and also several times in fencerows among overgrown field.

DISTANCE TO BIRD 20-30 feet

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Partly cloudy sky with
occasional snow showers

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Bushnell 10x50 binoculars

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): A rather slender sparrow that was a bit larger than the
song and american tree sparrows present at the feeder. The chestnut, black, and
white stripes and chestnut ear patch immediately stood out and the single
dark breast spot was also obvious. In flight the long tail with white
outer feathers was also evident.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) Initially seen foraging for seed at the feeder. Also seen foraging in overgrown fields of goldenrod and multiflora rose. Flushed out of evergreen shrubs multiple times in mornings. Always found in the company of song sparrows, American tree sparrows, or dark-eyed juncos.

VOCALIZATIONS
Didn't hear any calls from this bird

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph Video recording Audio recording Drawing

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____
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) No other species of sparrow had a head pattern like this bird, and only the American tree sparrow had the same type of single dark breast spot. Since the head pattern was unique, I could count out the tree sparrow.

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

No experience with this species but a good deal of experience in identifying and observing most other eastern sparrow species.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) Yes because the plumage characteristics were so unique and I had multiple occasions to view the bird and confirm the identification.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation The Sibley Guide to Birds
After observation National Geographic Society Field Guide to Birds of North America

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 11/12/09

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Joshua E Davis

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Lark Sparrow Chondestes grammacus

Date of Sighting: 28 January 2009 to 28 January 2009

County : BUTLER

Location : BUTLER

Observer(s): Joshua Davis

Date of Submission: 2009

Submitted by: Joshua Davis

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
R. Wiltraut			X					
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson			X					
B. Coulter			X					
C. Rutt			X					
J. Heller			X					
G. Malosh			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/10

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/10/10