

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-08-23 14:36:58
Observer's Name	Meredith Lombard
E-mail	ctsnature@yahoo.com
Phone	717-684-3228
Observer's Address	Street Address: 255 N. 6th Street City: Columbia State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17512 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Joseph Yoder
Species (Common Name)	Lark Sparrow
Species (Scientific Name)	Chondestes grammacus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	immature--brown streaks on chest. Face pattern more obscure with browns instead of chestnut and black
Observation Date and Time	08-22-2016 1:20 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Manor Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Chestnut Grove Natural Area
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.946745, -76.432482 (appx location of bird when first seen)
Habitat	mix; Line of spruce and deciduous bordering newly mown grassy/weedy field on top of hill to left of parking lot; weed stubble 3-5 inches remain on hill; behind line of trees, short grass for 10 feet bordered by 5-6 inches of taller grass; Chestnut Grove Natural Area has a mix of tall native grasses and invasive weeds and several ponds for wildlife.
Distance to bird	15 feet
Viewing conditions	Excellent; Clear day, mid-70s F. Light breeze
Optical equipment used	Nikon Camera; Swarovski binoculars
Description	Large sparrow with bold face pattern with browns instead of chestnut and black. Noted as immature bird with incomplete dark chest spot and narrow ticking remaining on breast/underparts. Long, rounded tail with white corners observed in flight.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

We first encountered the bird as it flew and we noted the white outer tail feathers. Later, while we were sitting on the bench on the crest of the hill, the bird flew to a small deciduous tree to the right of the path and pictures were taken. It sat in the small tree for 5 minutes before flying to the spruce tree line. It was subsequently seen in the upper portions of several of the spruce trees or in open sections of the deciduous trees. It occasionally flew to the weedy grass. It eventually made a late afternoon trip to the a nearby pond and later returned to the tree line on top of the hill.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Distinctive, bold face pattern and white outer tail feathers pointed to Lark Sparrow

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes

During

Sibley Field Guide

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[2016 0822 Lark Sparrow.jpg](#)



[2016 0822 CGNA, Lark Sparrow 095e.jpg](#)

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