

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2016-12-26 16:16:45
<b>Observer's Name</b>	August Mirabella
<b>E-mail</b>	augustmirabella@aol.com
<b>Phone</b>	267-218-1997
<b>Observer's Address</b>	1443 Wheaton Lane North Wales PA 19454 United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Richard Smith
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Lark Sparrow
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Chondestes grammacus
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Immature
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	08-21-2016 1:00 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31190595">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31190595</a>
<b>County</b>	Bucks
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Buckingham Twp.
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Maple Knoll Farms
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	40.31697,-75.0014949
<b>Habitat</b>	Hedgerow along small stream between farm fields with corn & soybeans. Also, weedy area adjacent to hedgerow.
<b>Distance to bird</b>	20-25 feet
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Sunny
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	7x42 Zeiss Binoculars

**Description**

I thought the finder of the bird Richard Smith would document this. He didn't. He found it in the morning of the same day and then found it later for me. So, I took what I wrote at the time from my eBird entry to use here, with some modification. White ends to tail feathers, more extensive on outer two on each side. Saw the tail well in flight. Dark spot on off white breast & white lower belly. Bold face markings-dark lores, tan auriculars sharply separate from white malar stripe with black lower lateral stripe and white throat, also very sharply defined white supercilium with white strip surrounding the lower side of eye. Two brown stripes on top of head separated by thin pale center stripe. Back had multiple darker stripes separated by pale tan background. Upper parts generally tan overall with paler collar. Based on Sibley, a 1st winter bird. Camera was broken, so no picture.

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

Richard spotted it fly in and sit low to the ground in schrub. It sat pretty still in full view for several minutes watching us watch it. It flew and vanished finally.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

No other sparrow has the bold face/head pattern, mainly unstreaked breast and belly, and white ends to tail feathers.

**Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:**

One wintered at this site in the same hedgerow in 2006-2007, so Richard had much experience with the species. I also saw that bird a half dozen times over several months.

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

Yes, saw it very well and well aware of all other possible species.

**During**

None

**After**

Sibley Guide

**Click to edit**

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