





828-01-1993

On Sunday October 24, 1993 a LeConte's Sparrow was observed on a grassy island below Bainbridge on the Susquehanna River, Lancaster County, PA. The island had very little dry ground with the reported river level at Harrisburg at 3.9' and rising. (A very important factor in birding this area) Observers included Skip Conant, Rob MEGRAW and Eric Witmer. Observations were made from 2:30-3:00 PM. One fairly indistinct photo was taken (500mm). All sightings were made with 10x or less Binoculars in fairly good light at distances as close as 20 feet.

Field marks noted include, An obviously smaller, slender sparrow especially in flight. A prominent buffy eyeline with a dark crown containing a thin white central crown stripe. The ear patch was a light gray and not outstanding. A very thin eye ring was noted (facial skin?) No gray was noted on the nape, only some fine darker streaks. The back was medium brown with some lighter streaks and some dark centered feathers with buffy edges. The breast was buffy with some fine streaking continuing along the sides toward the flanks. The belly was white. The bill was dark gray but not black. The legs were pinkish. The tail was medium brown. The tail feathers were pointed.

The bird was initially flushed from some waist high grasses and flew about 50' to where it perched in a thicket of River Birch < 8' tall. This process continued 4-5 times with the bird diving into the grasses and disappearing.

The bird was unsuccessfully searched for the following AM by Jerry Book and Tom Garner. Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows and a different variety of birds were noted from the previous day. I am familiar with the similar(?) Sharp-tailed sparrow of the Nelson's Race which is a regular localized late Sept/October migrant of these islands. All three observers saw the LeConte's Sparrow at Struble Lake Chester Co, PA 18 months before.

If accepted this would be a  
First LANCASTER COUNTY Record.

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829-01-1993

LECONTE'S SPARROW

THIS RECORD IS BEING RECIRCULATED BECAUSE THE PHOTOS GOT SEPARATED FROM THE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION. YOUR ORIGINAL BALLOTS ARE INCLUDED FOR YOU TO MODIFY OR CONFIRM YOUR ORIGINAL DECISION.

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**

Species: **Le Conte's Sparrow (Ammodramus leconteii)**

Date of Sighting: **24 October 1993 to 24 October 1993**

Location: **BAINBRIDGE**

County: **LANCASTER**

Observer(s): **Eric Witmer**

Date of Submission: **1993**

Submitted by: **Eric Witmer**

Written Description: **YES**      Photo: **YES**      Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
J. Skinner			X					
TOTALS	5		2					
DECISION	X							

Comments: *Previously voted on as Class III.  
This ballot moves it up to Class I-P.*

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C Haas*

Date:

*3-31-95*