

829-01-1994

Sighting of LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) at Green Lane Reservoir,
Montgomery County - John Puschock, 1030 Macungie Avenue, Emmaus, PA 18049-1627

On 3 November 1994, I was walking through a field between Green Lane Reservoir and Church Road. At about 1640, a small brown bird flushed from an area of short grass, dead Queen Anne's Lace, and various low-growing forbs approximately 3 feet from me. It flew about 60 feet to the shore of the reservoir, never flying more than 2 feet off the ground. It appeared to land in area of knee high grass. I suspected that this bird was a LeConte's Sparrow because of the close approach it allowed and because it appeared to be smaller and lighter colored than the Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) that I was also flushing from this field (an Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) was also present). I quickly walked to the spot it landed and began looking for it. There were about ten Savannah Sparrows along the shore. After about two minutes, I noticed a bird on a branch of a shrub about 40 feet away. It was facing away from me and was nervously looking back, quickly turning its head back and forth. I walked up to about 20 feet away from it and observed it with 10X Bausch & Lomb binoculars. The light was too dim for photography, but it was good enough to discern colors. The weather was mostly sunny with a mild temperature and southerly winds. The wind on the previous day was strong and from the northwest. I only observed the bird for about a minute because I wanted to minimize the disturbance to it. Unfortunately, the bird was not seen again, even though many observers searched for it over the next 2 or 3 days. I have previous experience with this species in Mississippi. I saw several individuals in similar habitat in March 1993. The description follows:

GENERAL APPEARANCE & SIZE: A sparrow with a flat head and a short tail. Smaller than a Savannah Sparrow.

HEAD: Broad, buff-colored supercilium. Gray, triangular patch over the ear coverts. Crown a medium brown. A narrow white or light-colored central crown stripe was only seen when the bird was facing away from me. Malar region was buffy yellow, more yellow than the supercilium but not as much as on the breast. White throat. Eye color was dark.

UPPERPARTS: Most of the upperparts appeared to be light brown with darker brown streaks. I did not note the pattern on individual feathers. A gray patch across the lower nape was visible but not obvious. Reddish brown streaks throughout the patch on the nape.

UNDERPARTS: Yellow across the breast continuing down along the flanks. Dark brown streaking confined to the flanks and sides of the breast. Belly white. Plumage of undertail coverts and vent was not noted.

TAIL: Tail color was a light or medium brown similar to that of the upperparts. Pointed tail feathers. Deep, narrow notch.

BARE PARTS: Sparrow-shaped bill - short with thick base, dark gray. Leg color not noted.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: **3 November 1994 to 3 November 1994**

Location: **GREEN LANE**

County: **MONTGOMERY**

Observer(s): **John Puschock**

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **John Puschock**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** 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					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			6			1		
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. Chan

Date:

9-19-95