

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-05-30 13:47:26
Observer's Name	Bobby Brown
E-mail	bobbybrown1011@gmail.com
Observer's Address	United States
Names of additional observers	Norwood Frederick (finder), Deb & Bob Brown, Dan Brauning, Steve Pinkerton, Andy Keister
Species (Common Name)	LeConte's Sparrow
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	04-21-2018 1:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44787090
County	Lycoming
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Gamble Twp.
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Rose Valley Lake
GPS coordinates of sighting	41.393788, -76.990885
Habitat	Rose Valley Lake is a 389 acre reservoir managed by the PA Fish and Boat Commission and one of the best all-around birding sites in the area. The bird was located along a grassy/brushy bank on the northeast portion of the lake. There are cattails along the edge of the water in that section, but the bird was never observed in those, seeming to prefer the drier grass away from the water.
Distance to bird	10 to 15 feet
Viewing conditions	Nothing terribly notable with the weather. A calm, pleasant day. Viewing the bird only hampered by its tendency of hiding, so views were through grass/brush.
Optical equipment used	Swarovski EL 8.5x42 Swarovision binoculars, Canon 7Dii with 100-400mm f/5.6 ii
Description	Sparrow with orange face showing pale auriculars and lores, purplish spots/streaks on nape, and a median crown stripe that is orangish towards the forehead and white towards the back of the head.

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

It was exhibiting textbook behavior for the species. We knew essentially where it was within a small patch of habitat, and it took over two hours to get a look at it. The bird was seen running on the ground. I never saw it out in the open other than as it ran along the ground to/from cover.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

The orange face, pale lores and purplish spots on the nape eliminate all other sparrows

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

My photos are of fairly low quality due to the skulky nature of the bird, but I feel that they are diagnostic. Norwood saw the bird out in the open for several minutes, and took fantastic photos (on <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44785364>). If those photos must be submitted to accept as I-P, please let me know and I will ask him to do so. I spent a few hours looking for the bird the following day (4/22/18) without success, although Norwood thinks he saw it around 6:15am that day.

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

Yes, diagnostic photos

During

NatGeo Birds of North America App

After

Sibley 2nd Ed.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[lecontes1.jpg](#)



[lecontes2.jpg](#)



[lecontes3.jpg](#)

[Click to edit](#)

PORC-webform00497