

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-12-07 19:47:25
Observer's Name	Dave Belford
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Phone	6109414387
Observer's Address	4107 Devonshire Road Plymouth Meeting Pennsylvania 19462 United States
Species (Common Name)	LeConte's Sparrow
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	adult
Observation Date and Time	10-06-2019 8:10 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/checklist/S60401137
County	Montgomery
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Whitemarsh Twp
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Dixon Meadow Preserve
GPS coordinates of sighting	N 40.100990 W 75.243009
Habitat	brushy with fence line to adjoining pasture
Distance to bird	about 50 feet
Viewing conditions	cloudy
Optical equipment used	Eagle Optics Denali 8x42
Description	small, short-tailed sparrow seen with song and savannah sparrows, buffy orange tones for eyebrow, around throat, along sides and under tail, fine streaks along sides over buffy colors, white on tertials and other pale stripes on upper back; side and back view

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

flew up to fence line from brushy area and sat there for about ten minutes before disappearing in the brush not to be refound

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

both Song and Savannah sparrows present on fence line and in brushy area giving size comparison; stayed more stationary than other sparrows when it landed on the fence line; had more orange tones and less gray tones than Nelson's or Saltmarsh would have around neck and face

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

My brother, Alan Belford, and I had a similar encounter with a LeConte's Sparrow in Cape May some years ago (before I started using ebird) where the bird flew up out of some brush at Higbee Beach and perched for about ten minutes giving us a spot on look before disappearing. I believe that was also October but could find my paper list to check the date.

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

Yes. I ruled out all the usual sparrows first and then went through the unusual ones.

During

National Field Guide to Birds of North America

After

The Sibley Guide to Birds

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