

Jerry McWilliams  
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Janet,

Andrew Troyer sent me this description for PORC review. He doesn't have a computer, so he asked me to submit his sighting.

On May 13th., we had our big-day birding Juniata County. Our group was Ben, and Marcus Troyer, Moses, David, Noah, Andy, and Benny Schwartz, and myself. Also Nathan Raber. We got to Pine Tree Trail, at about 4:00 PM. Up ahead from us were a few White Crowned Sparrows, and one very unusual sparrow. As we approached they flew up ahead into the underbrush. But came out o the trail to feed again. We pushed them out about half-way the length of the trail.

This unusual sparrow had a very nervous disposition. it would scratch rapidly. Things flew. It did this over and over.

Here are some more descriptions.....

- \*The over-all sparrow was almost as dark as a Catbird
- \*Its breast was streaked.
- \*It had streaks over the head.
- \*It had a streak mid-center over its head.
- \*It had a spot on its chest that was a Song Sparrow, but smaller.
- \*It had light legs.
- \*It carried its tail slightly up-ward as a wren does.
- \*It had substantial less tail than a Song Sparrow.

We came home and compared eight different field guides. We are still confused. It was as a dark as the Seaside Sparrow. We didn't see any yellow. We didn't know to look for it. The Nelson's Sparrow is shown a bit lighter than this sparrow was. But, one thing, this sparrow had a stripe over the center of its head. We couldn't find any picture of the Sea-side Sparrow's top of head.

We at this point are calling it an extra dark Nelson's Sparrow.

Andrew M. Troyer  
Juniata County

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## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Ballot – Round One

Species: Nelson's Sparrow      *Ammodramus nelsoni*

Number of Individuals observed:

Date of Sighting: 5-13-2014

County : Juniata

Location : Pine Tree Trail

GPS Coordinates: -

Observer(s): Andrew Troyer

Date of Submission: 5-14-2014

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams for A. Troyer

Written Description: yes      Photo: x      Specimen: x      Recording: x

Committee Member:

VOTE: (Check one)

Class I (P) (S) (R) (O)

Class II

Class III

Class IV-A

Class IV-B

Class IV-C

Class V

Comments:

Member Signature:

Date: