

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2017-12-12 16:27:38
Observer's Name	August Mirabella
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Phone	215-368-0594
Observer's Address	1443 Wheaton Lane North Wales PA 19454 United States
Names of additional observers	Judy Mirabella, Richard Smith, Vicky Smith
Species (Common Name)	Nelson's Sparrow(Atlantic)
Species (Scientific Name)	Ammodramus nelsoni
Subspecies (if known)	subvirgatus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	adult
Observation Date and Time	11-01-2017 2:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S40389044
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Doylestown Twp.
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Pine Run Dam
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.311159, -75.175940
Habitat	Lake edge with mix of tall warm season grass, other seed bearing plants, and small scattered shrubs.
Distance to bird	10 ft. or less
Viewing conditions	40s cloudy
Optical equipment used	Zeiss 7x44

Description

Species and subspecies were verified by Devich Farbotnik. The incredible extensive dark gray back and dark wings, with only dark streaks on the back, and the very pale yellow lores fading even paler along the supercilium, pale yellow breast with faint streaks with well defined break with lighter belly supported the subvergatus ID. The bird (Farbotnik felt there may have been two birds 11/4) remained until at least 11/14 per other observers and photos.

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

We stalked the area very slowly. I saw a bird fly a short distance and vanish rather than flying a long distance as the other sparrows often do at this site. So, I suspected it was the bird and slowly stalked up to the spot. It was very busy seeking seeds on the various plants, only occasionally being fully exposed. It pretty much ignored us and thus allowed pictures. I am sending this documentation as I don't know if it has been documented before.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

The main difference with the Interior Nelson's was the dark gray upper parts without white streaks, the pale yellow lores fading over the eye, and the pale yellow breast background with faint streaks. The bright orange of the interior subspecies face and breast were not present, nor the browner back with white streaks. Some of the same reasons eliminate Saltmarsh Sparrow. The central crown was similar to Interior, and the lack of white through the center eliminates among other things Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Leconte's . The apparent lack of a bright white throat and malar helps to eliminate Seaside, along with a brighter yellow breast, lighter belly, and more yellow on the surpercilium.

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

A strong coastal storm at the end of October probably was a factor in the bird being inland.

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

Yes. Supported by photos & Farbotnik

During

None

After

Sibley Guide and Sparrows Guide by Beadle & Rising

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[Nelson's Sp. \(A. n. subvirgatus\)Pine Run Dam 11-1-17 \(2\).JPG](#)



[Nelson's Sp. \(A. n. subvirgatus\)Pine Run Dam 11-1-17 \(5\).JPG](#)









