











831-01-1999

On April 20, 1999 while conducting a shorebird survey of the Conejohela Flats on the Susquehanna River near Washington Boro, Lancaster County, PA. I discovered a Seaside Sparrow feeding on exposed mudflats at the edge of a marshy area. I briefly observed the sparrow at 1500 hr. and later relocated the sparrow after the survey at 1715 hr. to document the record. Conditions were overcast. The 1500 hr. observation was made with 20x spotting scope. The 1715-1800 hr. documentation was made with 10x42 binoculars and photos were taken with a 300mm telephoto lens with 400ASA film at shutter speeds of 1/125 to 1/250 at f5 and f5.6. Observations were made for about 45 minutes. I was the only observer.

Field Notes: a medium sized sparrow, plump appearance and short-tailed. Bill dark gray, thick at base and coming to a point. The crown was gray with two brownish lateral crown stripes, bordering a lighter gray (than crown) supercilium. At the base of the bill was a small yellow supraloral patch that ended near the top of the eye. Eye was dark. The ear patch was grayish brown. The submoustachial stripe was buffy. The malar stripe was gray. The throat was white, contrasting sharply with the rest of the coloration of breast, sides, and upperparts.

The mantle, scapulars and back were grayish brown with some indistinct lighter streaks in the scapulars. The primaries were rusty brown. The tail was short and rusty brown. The tail feathers were pointed at the tips. The upper breast was buffy with short brown heavy streaks. This area ended fairly abruptly and faded to an even grayish brown down to and included the belly. The sides and flanks were light brown with darker streaks. The legs were pinkish or flesh colored.

The Seaside Sparrow was always low to the ground often walking or running and picking at the mud or at vegetation 1"-2' off of the mud sometimes hovering at the newer plant growth somewhat like a warbler. No vocalizations were noted. Some of the buffier coloration in the submoustachial stripe, breast and flanks might suggest the macGillivraii race instead of the maritimus race. This record represents the second Lancaster County record. The first record was from the same location May 14, 1988 by Jerry Book and Tom Garner. These supporting details and photographs have been submitted to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Record Committee (PORC), Pennsylvania Birds, Audubon Field Notes and the Lancaster County Rare Bird Photo file.

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Seaside Sparrow (Ammodramus maritimus)

Date of Sighting: 20 April 1999 to 20 April 1999

Location: WASHINGTON BORO

County: LANCASTER

Observer(s): Eric Witmer

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Eric Witmer

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

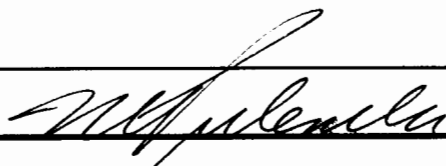
Specimen: No

Recording: ~~Video~~

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. Couchman	X							
P. Hess	X							
R. Ickes			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	5		2					
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 2/27/01