

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2020-05-09 23:22:43
Observer's Name	Charles Homler
E-mail	focusonwildlife@gmx.com
Phone	2676898475
Observer's Address	2523 S Colorado St PHILADELPHIA Pennsylvania 19145 United States
Species (Common Name)	Seaside Sparrow
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Ammospiza maritima</i>
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	05-09-2020 6:10 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/checklist/S68746449
County	Philadelphia
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Philadelphia
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	FDR Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	39°54'09.7"N 75°10'42.5"W
Habitat	There is a pond that has flooded its banks the past few years. The trees that used to be on dry land are now submerged about a 1 deep. (I was chasing a Northern waterthrush when I found the bird.) There are some reeds and small patches of soil with grass that are above the water surface.
Distance to bird	8 - 10 feet
Viewing conditions	Clear / Shade
Optical equipment used	Canon 5D Mk IV with 400MM Lens.
Description	I observed several warbler species and a flycatcher in a copse of trees that are old growth on land that has been flooded the past few years. When I was looking at a Northern Waterthrush I saw some movement and saw a grayish sparrow. I tried to get closer, moving through the water actually and hugged a tree for support. Low and behold it was a Seaside Sparrow. I have several bad images and the clearest one is attached to my ebird checklist.

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

Foraging as best as I could tell. Staying mostly in cover. I believe there were two, but I can only be 100% certain of the one.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Yellow feathers near the beak, overall color. I doubted the observation based on location, but Merlin App said it was Seaside and then I sent to more experienced birders I know and they were very excited.

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

Oh yeah. This is a species I am familiar with and just saw last week in Heiselville. Very surprised to find it in Philly. (Oddly enough about 25 feet from a spot I found a Diamond Back Terrapin last year.)

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[0G1A0164.JPG](#)



[0G1A0180.JPG](#)



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[Seaside-Sparrow-FDR-Park.jpg](#)

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