

839-01-2001

Subj: Harris's sparrow
Date: 5/15/01 6:25:32 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: REMACH
To: JerryMcW
CC: jvalimont@ppg.com, mpfial@sgi.net, phess@salsgiver.com, ibird@juno.com, Himantopus,
carolmcc@juno.com, Grosbeaker, snaggle719@yahoo.com, bluejay@city-net.com,
blackburnian@yahoo.com, sinderso@gateway.net, dw_wilton@yahoo.com

Hi all,
Here is my PORC write-up.

May 15, 2001

To: Jerry McWilliams
Paul Hess
Members of PORC

Re: Harris's sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)
Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, PA
May 14, 2001

On sidewalk trail about 400 yards from the north entrance (lakeside) I found a Harris's sparrow at 8:45 a.m. A white-crowned sparrow flew into a tree, immediately followed by the Harris'. At first, I thought it was a partially melanistic white-crown. The throat and upper chest were black. Gray was on the sides of its head. The size of the two birds was similar. But it tipped its head exposing an all black crown. The ear patch area was edged in black. The bill appeared to be small for such a large sparrow. The bill was pink, similar to a field sparrow. The lower breast and belly were clear of any markings and off white. There was small dark brown spotting along the upper edge of the breast. I did not notice any prominent wing bars. I observed this bird for about 15 seconds before it flew south towards the bay. This bird was perched at eye level about 20 feet away. I use Zeiss 10x40 bino's.

Similar species:

Black-throated sparrow

This species does not have a black crown, ear patch edged in black, a pink bill. Its size is too small.

Black-chinned sparrow

This species does not have a clear breast, ear patch edged in black. Its size is too small.

This was my first encounter with a Harris's sparrow.

About three hours later at the south end of Sidewalk trail, Randy Stringer of Grove City, also saw a Harris's sparrow accompanied by a white-crowned. He told me that afternoon that he did not know of my prior sighting.

Please submit this report to the other members of PORC.

Thank you,

Bob Machesney
105 Lindley Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(412)-366-7869
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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

Date of Sighting: 14 May 2001 to 14 May 2001

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Bob Machesney

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Bob Machesney

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead				X				
D. Heathcote D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X					
B. Reid E. Witman			X					
R. Leberman R. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary):

Date: 11/1/02