

839-02-2001

Hi Nick,

Since I couldn't download the PDF file, I'm sending this 'non-form' report for my Harris' Sparrow sighting on 12/22/2001. I'm sure of my sighting; but the short amount of time that the bird was in view will probably cast some doubt with the Records Committee. It should be noted that the bird WAS seen 2 days later by Arlene Koch. At any rate, here's my account of the sighting:

I got a right-facing profile view of the bird, but the main problem was that it only stayed in view for about 10 seconds before flying off down the fencerow.

When I first saw it pop out of the bush 'naked eye', the size and shape gave me the impression that it was probably a White-crowned Sparrow. As soon as I got on it with my 'bins', I first realized that it had a pink bill, and then noticed that it had a white throat patch bordered in black, forming a triangle. The rest of the breast was white. Next, I noticed that the tan-colored head didn't have any noticeably strong markings of any kind. At this point, the bird flew and headed towards the road. I wasn't able to see where it landed, but it did appear to land somewhere near the road. I spent the next hour-and-a-half trying to relocate it, but never did.

At that point, I went back to the car, grabbed a piece of paper, drew a real rough sketch of what I saw, and then grabbed the Sibley guide. All of the features that I was able to see in that short time, were EXACTLY like the picture of the Harris' Sparrow on page 473 and the right-facing profile of the 1st-winter bird shown on page 493.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION FORM

CBC Name: Wild Creek-Penn Forest CBC

Species: Harris' Sparrow

Age: 1st Winter Bird

Sex: Unknown

Number: 1

Date of Observation: 12/22/2001

Time: 10:20 AM

Earlier/Later dates by others: Seen by Arlene Koch on 12/24/2001.

Place: 100 yard east of the intersection of Copella and E. Best Roads.

Nearest Town: Moorestown

County: Northampton

Observer: Dave DeReamus

Address: 20 Marywood Lane, Easton, PA 18042

Telephone / E-mail: (610) 252-0893 / becard@fast.net

839-02-2001

Observation Details

Other Observers: Arlene Koch (On 12/24/2001)

Optics: 8 x 56 Brooks binoculars

Distance from bird: 20 feet

Viewing Conditions: Good

Weather, sky cover: Clear skies

Past Experience: Have seen this bird in PA, NJ, and KS, and am very familiar with White-crowned Sparrows.

References or advice consulted: I checked my Sibley guide AFTER making a quick sketch of what I saw.

My impressions of the bird.

Description: A large sparrow.

Size and shape: Very similar to that of a White-crowned Sparrow.

Head: Was only able to notice a plain, tan (or light brown) head with no distinct markings.

Bill: Pinkish, sparrow-like bill.

Throat: White bordered by a fairly thin, triangular, black outline.

Breast: White.

Legs: I wasn't able to observe them in the short time the bird was in view.

Tail: I wasn't able to observe it in the short time the bird was in view

Wings: In the short time the bird was in view, I did not notice any distinct wingbars.

Sounds made, if any: The bird made no sounds of any kind.

Behavior and Habitat: The bird was in a multiflora rose bush in a fencerow surrounded by open fields that contained winter wheat and corn stubble.

Similar Species: The White-crowned Sparrow would be the closest "expected" similar species to what I saw, but was ruled out by the pink bill, plain head with no stripes of any kind, triangular throat patch bordered in black, and light-colored breast.

Write me if you have any additional questions.

Good birding,

Dave DeReamus

'Eastern PA Birdline' Compiler

Easton, PA

becard@fast.net

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 22 December 2001 to 24 January 2002

Location: MOORESTOWN

County: NORTHAMPTON

Observer(s): Dave DeReamus, Arlene Koch

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Dave DeReamus

Written Description: Yes

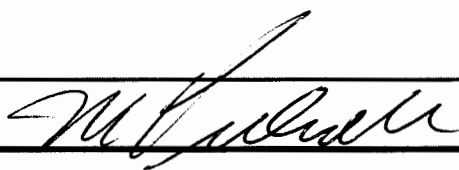
Photo: No

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			X					
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman		X						
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 2/11/03