

838A-01-1994

White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow

Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii

Location: Presque Isle State park

Date: April 29, 1994

Time: 5:45 PM

Weather: Variably cloudy, winds westerly, visibility excellent.

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular

Details of sighting and description: While walking along Deer Trail I saw 3 feeding sparrows on the trail about 100 feet in front of me. All three birds were readily identified as White-crowned Sparrows. Two birds were of the nominate race and the other was of the Gambelii race. All three birds shared the following characteristics, unmarked light gray nape, cheek, breast gray fading to pale gray on the belly, pale gray mantle streaked with gray-brown, and rump unmarked gray-brown. The tail and wings were medium brown with two pale wing bars. All three birds appeared to be nearly the same size. The difference between the two races was in the head stripes and bill color and size. The nominate race had a white crown bordered by two broad black stripes that joined over the bill and in front of the eye. The white supercillium stopped directly over the eye. The black eyestripe was narrower than the black stripes bordering the crown. The bill was pinkish-orange with a dusky tip. The *Z. l. gambelii* had black stripes bordering the white crown that was about the same width as the black eyestripe. The white supercillium continued past the eye to the base of the bill. The black stripes bordering the white crown met on the forehead, but did not extend down in front of the eye as in the nominate race. The black eyestripe of *Z. l. gambelii* began at the back of the eye and extended to the back of the head. The bill of *Z. l. gambelii* was noticeably smaller and paler than the nominate race and there was less of a dusky tip.

I watched the birds feed for about 10 minutes before a hiker disturbed them and they flew off. I have seen three others of this race last year on Presque Isle and have seen at least two others in the past also on Presque Isle.



Record No.: 838a-01-1994

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparr ()

Date of Sighting: 29 April 1994 to 29 April 1994

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1994

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. C. Haas

Date:

3-31-95