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GAMBER'S WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW IN ERIE COUNTY

ED KWATER

On Monday May 9th 1994 I was birding alone along Deer Trail, Presque Isle State Park, Erie County.

At approx. 7:30 a.m. I came across a small group of White-crowned Sparrows which I proceeded to look through with my x30 Kowa spotting 'scope. To my surprise one of the birds proved to be of the Alaskan and north Canadian race gambelii. The head pattern was very striking with a broad white central crown stripe, thick black lateral crown stripes, pronounced white supercilium extending well back behind the eye and onto the nape.

The character which caught my eye however was the eyestripe. The loreal area was pure white unlike the accompanying White-crowned Sparrows which had jet black lores. The post-ocular stripe was black and extended onto the nape but it was narrower than on the accompanying White-crowns. The bill was conical, typical of a seed-eating bird and orange. The chin and throat were white, the rest of the underparts a soft, pearly gray. The upperparts were typical of White-crowned Sparrow: gray mantle heavily streaked with black, plain mustard brown rump (seen clearly in flight) and darker brown tail. The wings were brown with 2 white wing bars formed by white tips to the median and greater coverts. The legs were pinkish brown. The birds flew up from

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threw ground into a large cottonwood tree where I had prolonged views of the gambelii through my scope at about 20 yd:

This is the second time I have seen this race of White-crowned Sparrow on Presque Isle (the first time being in May 1992) - I have extensive experience with gambelii in Alaska.

Light conditions were good throughout the observation period.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: 9 May 1994 to 9 May 1994

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Ed Kwater

Date of Submission: 1994

Submitted by: Ed Kwater

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):

F. C. Haas

Date:

3-31-95