













UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Species (common & scientific) Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*

Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex(es):** ?

Age(s) & Plumage(s): Adult

Date Seen: 10/24/2008 – 12/9/2008(Probably wintering beyond these dates if it lives and has food).

Time: Approx. Different times

Where Seen (Town/County: New Britain Twp., Bucks Co.

Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake): Peace Valley Park

Observer Reporting:

Name: August Mirabella

Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

E-mail: augustmirabella@aol.com

Telephone (optional): 215-368-0594

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you: Howard Eskin took photo 10/25, which showed ID clearly. Judy Mirabella on one date.

Distance to Bird: 20 Feet

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Good lighting.

Optical Equipment Used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins & Leica Scope

Habitat: Bird feeder located in mixed Multiflora, etc. thickets. Feeder is in a 30' x 25' clearing that has mixed low weeds and a very small man made pond. Approx. 100' from feeder are agricultural fields of several acres, with the closest being short grasses, etc. that had been cut several times in Summer for silage.

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage: This likely is the same bird that was submitted last spring from the same location. The bird looked like our normally occurring White-crowned Sparrow, with the primary exception being the clean pale white/gray lores, lacking any black spotting or tones, and appearing to blend in with other nearby pale gray face area. The bill was orange-yellow and very noticeably different than the orange-pink of our normal WCSP. The 10/25 pix show this but the 11/10 pix are as obvious. Different bird or lighting? I didn't notice if there was any differences in flank or back color from the other birds present. The flanks are buff/brown .

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Feeding and sitting.

Vocalizations: None

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report): Photo taken by Howard B. Eskin 10/25/08 & 11/10 submitted with this report.

Separation from Similar Species (How you eliminated others): The pale lore & orange-yellow bill were the key points, and it was in direct comparison to our normal black lored birds.

Discussion (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it): With the movement of the birds, the scope was often on the wrong bird, and there was no confusion knowing that we were looking at the wrong bird.

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species: Have seen several times.

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not): Although the difference was obvious, and I saw it well multiple times, I suppose an intergrade between subspecies is possible. I am not familiar with the other western subspecies at this point to remember details. It looks like a pretty sure thing from the photos.

References:

During Observation: None

After Observation: Photos, Sibley Guide

Date of report: 11/6/08 & 12/21/08

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

Date of Sighting: 24 October 2008 to 3 January 2009

County : BUCKS

Location : PEACE VALLEY PARK

Observer(s): August Mirabella et al

Date of Submission: 2009

Submitted by: August Mirabella, Howard Eskin

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
C. Rutt K. Fryburg	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

7/10

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

9/24/09