

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2016-12-11 12:11:50
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Evan Houston
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<b>Phone</b>	206-327-5352
<b>Observer's Address</b>	136 Ridgeview Danville PA 17821 United States
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	White-crowned Sparrow
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Zonotrichia leucophrys
<b>Subspecies (if known)</b>	gambelii
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	adult
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	12-10-2016 9:20 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32947621">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32947621</a>
<b>County</b>	Northumberland
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Lewis township (I think)
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Warrior Run Wetlands
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	41.110255, -76.790504
<b>Habitat</b>	streamside bushes
<b>Distance to bird</b>	approximately 75 feet
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	good light, partly cloudy, ~10mph wind
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Nikon Monarch 8 x 42 binoculars

<b>Description</b>	There were a lot of sparrows at this spot, so I walked to a good spot and pished. I was a little surprised at the number of White-crowned Sparrows, approximately 12 total, including both adults and juveniles. This bird, which was clearly an adult-plumaged White-crowned Sparrow, caught my eye during my scan with binoculars as having pale lores. I quickly pulled my camera out, zoomed in to its max of 30x, and took a number of pictures. I only viewed the bird with my binoculars in the field for perhaps 5 seconds, because I decided to focus on taking pictures, and it was cold and breezy. Since I did not have all of the field marks separating White-crowned Sparrow subspecies (besides pale lores) on ready recall in my mind, I intended to get photographs that I could study at home later. I did not find the bird again after it dropped down and I had taken the pictures.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	The bird was perched up in a streamside bush and looking around, in response to my pishing.
<b>Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)</b>	The bird is clearly an adult-plumaged White-crowned Sparrow, and after studying field guides (especially "Sparrows of the US and Canada", by Beadle and Rising), photographs online, and consulting another knowledgeable birder, I believe this bird fits the criteria to be identified as the "gambelii" subspecies. According to the "Sparrows" book, the best field marks for separating gambelii from leucophrys are color of the lores, front part of the supercilium, and bill. My photographs show that this bird has pale lores (not black as in leucophrys), the pale supercilium extends all the way forward to meet the bill (there is no black closing off the pale supercilium before it meets the bill), and the bill appears to be orange-ish (it does not appear to my eye to have appreciable pink hues). All of these field marks are consistent with gambelii, and do not match leucophrys.
<b>Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:</b>	I notice when reviewing my photographs of the bird that while the majority of the supercilium is a pale color, there is a small amount of dark feathering just in front of the eye. I looked at a number of photographs of adult gambelii online, and on many of them I could see a small amount of dark feathering in this area, for example this bird: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/guklr7e">http://tinyurl.com/guklr7e</a> Therefore, I think everything I can see about the bird I photographed is in line with the gambelii subspecies.
<b>Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)</b>	Yes (although identification at the level of subspecies is normally not as clear-cut as distinguishing separate species)
<b>During</b>	none
<b>After</b>	Sibley Guide to Birds, "Sparrows of the US and Canada" by Beadle and Rising, and online photographs via eBird's media search feature
<b>Supporting evidence (check all that apply)</b>	Photograph



[IMG\\_3618.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_3621.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_3624.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_3625.jpg](#)