

Submission Date	2012-11-27 15:38:18
Observer's Name	Cameron Rutt
E-mail	cameronrutt@gmail.com
Observer's Address	Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Regina and Robert Rutt
Species (Common Name)	"Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow
Species (Scientific Name)	Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii
Number of individuals	1
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Juvenile
Observation Date and Time	11-7-2012 3:25 PM
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Blooming Glen, Hilltown Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	727 Blooming Glen Road
Habitat	Small suburban backyard bordered by farmland.
Optical equipment used	Swarovski EL 8.5x42 binoculars and a Canon 60D with a 400mm f/5.6L
Description	See photos
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Foraging on the ground with other sparrows, including an adult White-crowned Sparrow of the nominate subspecies, in an area with spread seeds. When alarmed, the sparrows would dive into the bush for cover.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Although David Sibley in his blog (see below) states that "immatures [are] effectively indistinguishable" between gambelii and the nominate subspecies, the Blooming Glen bird shows classic "Gambel's" features and, to my eye, does not show any signs of intermediacy/intergradation which would cause concern for the identification. Moreover, the yellow-orange bill color of this bird, which was very evident (even more so than the blank loreal pattern), perfectly matches that of "Gambel's" and is unlike the "darker pink [bill] without yellow or orange tones" of the

expected nominate subspecies.

Interestingly, Michael O'Brien identified a juvenile "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow at Cape May, NJ, just a few days prior:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/75795935@N08/8156015953>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/75795935@N08/8156014379>

Discussion - anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/chrysoptera/8165008418>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/chrysoptera/8164970173>

Are you positive of your identification? (Why or why not)

Yes (as much as I can be without genetic analyses: it is certainly a "bird showing characteristics of the western [Taiga] breeding populations")

After

<http://www.sibleyguides.com/bird-info/white-crowned-sparrow/>

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[IMG_2370.JPG](#)

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