

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2014-11-12 19:35:58
Observer's Name	J. Eric Witmer
E-mail	hawkowl@ptd.net
Phone	717 314 0623
Observer's Address	Street Address: 230 Mason Drive City: Ephrata State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17522 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Tom Garner, Bruce Carl, Mike Epler, Meredith Lombard, Devich Farbotnik, Jason Horn, Shannon Thompson
Species (Common Name)	Seaside Sparrow
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>
Subspecies (if known)	Atlantic
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	10-04-2014 9:00 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Bainbridge
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Grassy Islands 1000 yards downriver from the Race Street boat access to the Susquehanna River
Habitat	vegetated river island. water willow and a coarse grass 2-4 feet in height.
Distance to bird	10-100 feet away
Viewing conditions	overcast
Optical equipment used	Leica 10x42 mm Binoculars
Description	Larger very dark sparrow. Flushed numerous times and was very difficult to see under the vegetation. non cooperative on initial day of sighting 10/4. relocated the following day in same area on 10/5.

Larger dark conical bill with yellow supraloral patch. White throat with a white malar area separated by a dusky border. The under parts were dark with some faint streaking in the upper breast.

In general very smoky gray bird

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Hid in the vegetation consistently, very similar to Nelson's Sparrows that we were searching and seeing in the area.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Very dusky colored Sparrow. Much darker than Nelson's Sparrow. Yellow supraloral patch distinctive to Seaside Sparrow. None of the warmer brown tones of Swamp Sparrow.

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

This bird was present in the area at least 10/4 and 10/5

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

Yes, Fairly unmistakable ID

During

None

After

Sibley (current wording/spelling of supraloral)

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Click to edit

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