

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-12-26 16:16:45
Observer's Name	August Mirabella
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Phone	267-218-1997
Observer's Address	1443 Wheaton Lane North Wales PA 19454 United States
Names of additional observers	Richard Smith
Species (Common Name)	Lark Sparrow
Species (Scientific Name)	Chondestes grammacus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Immature
Observation Date and Time	08-21-2016 1:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31190595
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Buckingham Twp.
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Maple Knoll Farms
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.31697,-75.0014949
Habitat	Hedgerow along small stream between farm fields with corn & soybeans. Also, weedy area adjacent to hedgerow.
Distance to bird	20-25 feet
Viewing conditions	Sunny
Optical equipment used	7x42 Zeiss Binoculars

Description

I thought the finder of the bird Richard Smith would document this. He didn't. He found it in the morning of the same day and then found it later for me. So, I took what I wrote at the time from my eBird entry to use here, with some modification. White ends to tail feathers, more extensive on outer two on each side. Saw the tail well in flight. Dark spot on off white breast & white lower belly. Bold face markings-dark lores, tan auriculars sharply separate from white malar stripe with black lower lateral stripe and white throat, also very sharply defined white supercilium with white strip surrounding the lower side of eye. Two brown stripes on top of head separated by thin pale center stripe. Back had multiple darker stripes separated by pale tan background. Upper parts generally tan overall with paler collar. Based on Sibley, a 1st winter bird. Camera was broken, so no picture.

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

Richard spotted it fly in and sit low to the ground in schrub. It sat pretty still in full view for several minutes watching us watch it. It flew and vanished finally.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

No other sparrow has the bold face/head pattern, mainly unstreaked breast and belly, and white ends to tail feathers.

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

One wintered at this site in the same hedgerow in 2006-2007, so Richard had much experience with the species. I also saw that bird a half dozen times over several months.

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

Yes, saw it very well and well aware of all other possible species.

During

None

After

Sibley Guide

Click to edit

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