

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2019-12-07 19:47:25
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Dave Belford
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<b>Observer's Address</b>	4107 Devonshire Road Plymouth Meeting Pennsylvania 19462 United States
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	LeConte's Sparrow
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	adult
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	10-06-2019 8:10 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S60401137">https://ebird.org/checklist/S60401137</a>
<b>County</b>	Montgomery
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Whitemarsh Twp
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Dixon Meadow Preserve
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	N 40.100990 W 75.243009
<b>Habitat</b>	brushy with fence line to adjoining pasture
<b>Distance to bird</b>	about 50 feet
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	cloudy
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Eagle Optics Denali 8x42
<b>Description</b>	small, short-tailed sparrow seen with song and savannah sparrows, buffy orange tones for eyebrow, around throat, along sides and under tail, fine streaks along sides over buffy colors, white on tertials and other pale stripes on upper back; side and back view

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

flew up to fence line from brushy area and sat there for about ten minutes before disappearing in the brush not to be refound

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

both Song and Savannah sparrows present on fence line and in brushy area giving size comparison; stayed more stationary than other sparrows when it landed on the fence line; had more orange tones and less gray tones than Nelson's or Saltmarsh would have around neck and face

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

My brother, Alan Belford, and I had a similar encounter with a LeConte's Sparrow in Cape May some years ago (before I started using ebird) where the bird flew up out of some brush at Higbee Beach and perched for about ten minutes giving us a spot on look before disappearing. I believe that was also October but could find my paper list to check the date.

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

Yes. I ruled out all the usual sparrows first and then went through the unusual ones.

**During**

National Field Guide to Birds of North America

**After**

The Sibley Guide to Birds

**Click to edit**

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