

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2020-09-17 14:44:30
Observer's Name	Matt Schenck
E-mail	mschenckee@gmail.com
Phone	570-295-5838
Observer's Address	212 Franklin Street Smethport PA 16749 United States
Names of additional observers	Susan Schenck
Species (Common Name)	Lark Sparrow
Species (Scientific Name)	Chondestes grammacus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	08-22-2020 8:50 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/checklist/S72678432
County	Clinton
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Mill Hall Borough
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Mill Hall Community Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	41.112743, -77.486180
Habitat	open, mowed field (baseball field)
Distance to bird	Initially about 75 yards varied during observation from 100 yards to about 30 yards.
Viewing conditions	Clear, sunny day.
Optical equipment used	Nikon Pro Staff 10x42 binoculars.
Description	Large, long-tailed passerine with framed facial pattern and central spot on an otherwise clean breast. In flight the bird showed white on the outer corners of the tail feathers.

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

Foraging on the ground, occasionally flying up and hawking insects but mostly picking at the grass and walking along.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Initially I thought this might be a Pipit but using size compared to adjacent Killdeer I was able to pretty quickly rule that out. When I first saw the bird fly I noted the white in the tail and thought maybe I had a Vesper Sparrow but the clean breast and flanks lacking streaking and the fact that only the outer corners were white versus the entire outer tail feathers would rule that species out.

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

Yes, I confirmed the identification with photos.

During

eBird media library

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[LASP_08222020_3A.JPG](#)

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