

Long Point Bird Observatory

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RARITY REPORT



In order that any sight record or banding of a rare species can be accepted for the historical record, it must be properly documented. LPBO cooperators are therefore asked to complete a form in every case where a rarity is being claimed. Guidance as to which species are considered rare in the Long Point area may be obtained from the LPBO Program C Coordinator and in *A Birding Guide to Long Point Area*. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature. PLEASE PRINT.

Species claimed: Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

No. of birds: 1

Age: First cycle formative

Sex: U

Date(s): February 26, 2012 – observation by SAM.

Bird was present February 12 to March 17, 2012

Place: 127 Granville St. Ottawa, ON. (original feeder). Observed by SAM at 115 Ida Rocheleau Pl. and 370 Pauline Charron Pl.

Time(s) of Observation: 1645

Who first saw the bird(s): Chris Allaway and Susan Roe.

Who first identified it: Chris Allaway

Other observers (names and addresses):

Gavin Platt (March XX, 2012) – see report by Gavin if provided or consult e-bird.

Any who disagree:

Your previous experience with the species: Observed the species numerous times in many plumages along the west coast.

Your previous experience with any closely similar species: Extensive experience with White-crowned Sparrow.

(a) Formerly:

(b) Same day:

Species present for comparison: American Tree Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco

Which were beside it for comparison: Slate-colored Junco

Distance from observer(s): 2 to 25m

How measured: Estimate

Optical aids used: 8.5x42 Swarovski EL

Weather conditions (at time of observation): Overcast

Visibility: clear

Cloud Cover: 100%

Lighting: constant light through cloud cover

Wind direction and speed: N/A

Other relevant conditions: Fresh snow cover.
(eg. rain, snow cover, etc.)

For "Waterbird " records only

Lake conditions:

Wave height:

Height of observer above lake:

Was observer's position sheltered:

Weather system preceding the date of observation (if known):

Attach weather map clipping from local or national newspaper if relevant.

Associated movements of other species:

Was the bird trapped:

Band # if banded:

Was it photographed:

If yes, by whom (name and address):

Specimen or parts preserved:

Present location:

Circumstances:

Chris Allaway observed an unidentified sparrow at his feeder while participating in Project Feederwatch and contacted Bird Studies Canada to confirm the identification. On February 26 I was visiting friends nearby and decided to check it out. I arrived in the neighbourhood around 1530 and stalked the local feeders for about 30 minutes before taking foot in the nearby cemeteries and park land. I searched for about an hour in the nearby parks and didn't find a thing. I returned to the neighbourhood and feeder-hopped. At about 1645 I observed a large sparrow sitting on a feeder behind 115 Ida Rocheleau Pl., which turned out to be the GCSP. It fed for a moment and then flew across the street into a Cedar hedge at 370 Pauline Charron Place and began chipping from the hedge. I was able to watch the bird briefly in the hedge before it moved along into the backyards of the property with a flock of juncos.

Description:

Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions.

Large *Zonotrichia* sparrow with a clear grayish brown breast and belly with brownish wash to the flanks. Throat had two fairly distinct malar stripes, gray throat, cheeks, and nape. There was a faint eye-line and the crown was a mix of brown, gold and black feathers. Back was mottled black, brown, chesnut, silver and white. Wing coverts were brown, chesnut and black with two distinct white bars formed from white edging to the median and greater coverts. Long darkish brown tail. Close examination of the pictures allowed determination that the bird in first-cycle formative plumage based on the shape and wear of the primary coverts, rectrices (although many appeared to be replaced), and black mottling in the crown would suggest the start of first-cycle alternate moult. All photos below c/o Chris Allaway taken on March 3, 2012 and the one on the ground February 24, 2012. The chip heard was much softer and higher pitched than *Zonotrichia albicollis* and *leucophrys* more resembling a long buzzy *Spizella*-like chip.





(Continue on extra sheet if required)

Did you refer to any guides/other literature: no

(a) at the time: no

(b) afterwards: no

Finally, is this record 100% certain? yes

Signed:

E-mail Address: smac

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart Mackenzie".

Date: March 16, 2012

Mailing Address: PO Box 160, Port Rowan, ON. N0E 1M0