

# Ontario Bird Records Committee

## Rare Bird Report Form

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**Species:** Lark Sparrow.

**Date of Sighting :** September 3, 2002

**Time:** Approx. 900AM, and periodically till September 4<sup>th</sup>.  
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**Number-Age-Sex:** One Hatch Year Sex Unknown.

**Location:** The bird was at Thunder Cape Bird Observatory on the tip of Sibley Peninsula in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park.

**Habitat:** The bird was originally found in a shorebird trap along the rocky beach once again an insult to the skills of the birders present. Other observations found the bird in low lying scrub consisting mostly of Dogwood species and amongst the very rocky shore either on the beach or boulders.

**Weather Conditions:** The day was cool and partly cloudy. A very large storm from the west came through two nights prior.

**Distance:** Distance ranged from 0cm to about 100m. The bird was banded.

**Optical Equipment:** 10X40 Bushnell Legends, 8X35 , and 8X 40 Bushnell.

**Photos:** Photos attached and taken by Stuart Mackenzie

### Names and Addresses of Observers:

Stuart Mackenzie	Jody and Jessie Allair
1459 Baseline Rd.	c/o Thunder Cape Bird Observatory
Stoney Creek ON	??????
L8E 5G4	

**Experience:** The three named observers are extremely committed and very well apt at bird identification. This was the first time each of us had seen a Lark Bunting.

**Date of Report:** September 9, 2002

### Description of Sighting:

Unfortunately the bird was confirmed upon its capture. The first sighting of the bird was made around 900AM as it was caught in a shorebird trap on the beach. After shaking his head Stu extracted the bird, it was held for photos, banded and released.

Right off the bat the most distinctive identification feature was the beautiful reddish brown white and black head striping, creamy supercilium and reddish-brown auricular. The upper back what a gray, brown, and black striped pattern. The tertials were a dark brown with cinnamon edging and white tips. The upper tail coverts were a light brown. White flashes on the tail were extremely defined and contrasted strongly against the dark brown almost black area of the rest of the tail feathers. The breast was clean with two faint and mottled malar stripes. The faint head colouring and plumage helped us to determine the hatch year status, which was confirmed by skulling.

Please see the photos for any missed information.

**Similar Species:** Zonotrichia Sp. – ruled out due to white tail flashes et al.

Lark Bunting – white tail flashes much larger and the distinct head pattern.