

# LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

P.O. BOX 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, Canada N0E 1M0 Tel: (519) 586-3531



## 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 Migration Program Manager. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature. PLEASE PRINT.

Species claimed: Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

No. of birds: 1

Age: Probable Ady

Sex: Probable Male?

Date(s): 17 April 2004

Place: Eastern Tip of Long Point

Time(s) of Observation: 0730

Who first saw the bird(s): James Ethelberg

Who first identified it: Christian Fries

Other observers (names and addresses): Kevin Picard (C/O LPBO)

Any who disagree: None

Your previous experience with the species: During Breeding Study in The Black Hills, SD

Your previous experience with any closely similar species:

(a) Formerly: Various birding adventures; a few banding seasons at LPBO and TCBO.

(b) Same day: Various Sparrows including Vesper Sparrow, Chipping + Song Sparrows.

Species present for comparison: Chipping and Song Sparrows, along with other Sparrow species

Which were beside it for comparison: Same as above - Chipping and Song Sparrows.

Distance from observer(s): 10-15 m

How measured: estimated

Optical aids used: Swift Audubon 8.5x44 binoculars

Weather conditions (at time of observation)Visibility: 710 kmCloud Cover: 60%Lighting: Good; partially overcast diffuse lightingWind direction and speed: Sw, BE.4Other relevant conditions:  
(eg. rain, snow cover, etc.)For "Waterbird " records onlyLake conditions:Wave height:Height of observer above lake:Was observer's position sheltered:

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

warm front moving from West at most basic description

*Attach weather map clipping from local or national newspaper if relevant.*Associated movements of other species: Ten species of sparrow with highest proportion  
Song Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco.

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Was the bird trapped: NoBand # if banded:Was it photographed: NoIf yes, by whom (name and address):Specimen or parts preserved:Present location:

Circumstances:

Birding the Tip during morning, Janus, Kevin and I were walking across the lawn to the cabin before heading out on census when Janus spotted a strange looking bird. when flushed again, the white on the tail of Janus' strange bird jumped out at me and we got excellent looks of the bird foraging on the lawn with a number of other Sparrows - Chipping and Song Sparrows. I went to get my camera and when I returned, the bird had disappeared, according to the two lads. After searching for about 20 minutes, we began our census in the hopes of relocating it somewhere along the route, but to no avail.

Description:

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

a) Head - distinctive facial pattern robust cheek and cap, black malar and eye-line - Bold supercilium - grayish-white.

Upperparts - streaked, brown, nothing outstanding besides the rump which wasn't marked.

Underparts - Central breast spot very noticeable on unmarked breast

Tail - most distinctive character of the bird. Lots of white rounding entire bottom portion of tail  
- longish

(Continue on extra sheet if required)

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Did you refer to any guides/other literature:

(a) at the time: No

(b) afterwards: Sibley

Finally, is this record 100% certain? Absolutely.

Signed: 

Date: 19 April 2024

Christian Fris

Mailing Address: C/O LPBU

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Species claimed: LARK SPARROW

No. of birds: 1 Age: - Sex: -

Date(s): 17/4-2004

Place: The Tip

Time(s) of Observation: 7.30 am.

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Who first saw the bird(s): JANGS ETHELBERG

Who first identified it: CHRISTIAN FRIIS

Other observers (names and addresses): Kevin Picard

Any who disagree: NO

Your previous experience with the species: NONE

Your previous experience with any closely similar species:

(a) Formerly:

(b) Same day: Chipping - Field - Savannah - Fox - Song Sparrows

Species present for comparison: Vespe Sparrow, Am. Robin

Which were beside it for comparison: Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow

Distance from observer(s): 12-15 m

How measured: -

Optical aids used: Binoculars 10x40

## Weather conditions (at time of observation)

Visibility: Good ~ 25 km

Cloud Cover: 6/10

Lighting: Fair - Good

Wind direction and speed: SW 4

Other relevant conditions:  
(eg. rain, snow cover, etc.) NO

## 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):

Not available

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

## Associated movements of other species:

White-Throated Sparrow  
Song Sparrow

Was the bird trapped: NO

Band # if banded: -

Was it photographed: NO

If yes, by whom (name and address):

Specimen or parts preserved: -

Present location: -

**Circumstances:** Kevin, Christian and I was on our way from the banding lab to the house, when we saw some sparrow on the lawn. We instinctively stopped to check them out, and the first one I looked at, was a bird I couldn't see what was. I asked the others if they knew what it was, and as soon as Christian saw it, he stumped. Seconds after it disappeared behind some grass, we went closer when it suddenly appeared again, where Christian saw it for some seconds, before it took off and disappeared behind the house. When we came round, it was by the feeder, where Kevin also saw it. Before I got my binoculars on it, it took off again, this time for good. Despite search the most of the day, it wasn't seen again.

**Description:**

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

a) head: Brown crown, whiteish supercilium, black eyestripe  
Brown auriculars

breast: Unstreaked with buffish flanks. A black spot in the middle.

tail: Outer rectrices white. seen when landing.

back: not noted.

size: Rather big. Definitely bigger than Chipping and Song Sparrow

(Continue on extra sheet if required)

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Did you refer to any guides/other literature:

(a) at the time: NO

(b) afterwards: NO

Finally, is this record 100% certain? Yes

Signed: Janus F. Helberg

Date: 20/4 - 2004

Mailing Address: REBEK SØDARK 5, YER 707  
2650 HVIDOVRE  
DENMARK

Phone: JANUS@... ..