

Le Conte's Sparrow

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: Small bill, Widening dark eyeline, gray cheek patches and fine streaks in the breast band. Eyebrow brighter than the rest of the buffy wash on face and breast. Agree with ID.

CM2: This is a very nicely documented record. The photographs are sufficient to establish the identification. The discussion supports what was seen and eliminates confounding species. The observers are experienced and respected birders. Overall, a fine record for the state. Provenance is not a concern with the species. Habitat and timing all fit with known migration patterns and preferences. This is a bird that probably passes through the state much more frequently than it is observed due to its secretive nature. For all these reasons, a vote FOR this record is appropriate.

CM3: A very detailed observation by multiple observers who had experience with both Le Conte's and Nelson's Sparrow. They carefully observed the birds and were able to correctly identify the species. Great record!

CM4: Multiple experienced observers. Photo documentation.

CM5: I vote to include the Mason County Le Conte's Sparrow record for official state list. This is an excellent report with supporting photographs provide the evidence to conclusively include in the record. The photographs support the field observation of three others. Although the photograph does not show the purplish spots on the nape but the observers noted them eliminating the Nelson's. The photos show the clean eyeline of the Le Conte's. The reporter gave an excellent review of eliminating other possible sparrows. I believe the record meets the guidelines for inclusion on the state list.

CM6: Very nice description by an experienced birder.

CM7: The photo by Rennie Talbert provides the best evidence for identifying and verifying the species for this bird. The white median crown stripe with thin throat-stripes, purplish spots on the nape and yellow-buff facial patterns are pretty distinctive. The only other species that closely resembles this pattern belong to the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow which both lack the bright lores that are evident on the bird in this photo. Plus these species do not have a white median crown stripe or purplish spots on the nape like the bird in the photo.