

A FIRST SUBSTANTIATED RECORD OF GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW FROM NEW YORK STATE

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A Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) was observed by many people at Jones Beach, Long Island, New York on 17 and 18 October 1987. This individual was color-photographed on the first date by Adrian Dignan. To my knowledge this was the only period when it was recorded. The slides from which the accompanying figures were made are on deposit with the New York State Avian Records Committee. This is the first substantiated record of this mainly Pacific coast species for New York State. Unfortunately, I did not see this individual. However, at approximately the same location, one was found by Geoffrey Carleton on 31 January 1954 and was seen by many observers, including this writer, until 24 April 1954. It could not be collected, and the photographs taken were unsatisfactory. This report was first published by Bull (1964: 461). It was placed on the Hypothetical List by Bull (1974: 592); however, this report has been reviewed and the record was accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee (DeBenedictis *et al*, 1984).

The first definite record for the entire Atlantic seaboard of this far western bird was of a specimen collected at Bedford, Mass, on 26 January 1928 by J. B. May, now in the collection of the Boston Museum of Science (Griscom & Snyder, 1955). Another individual was trapped and banded by A. and J. Conway at Easton, Pennsylvania, on 3 June 1952 and examined by Alexander Wetmore, Ludlow Griscom, and Roger Peterson. This record and two other occurrences in Pennsylvania appear in Poole (1964). Other reports were made in New Jersey, some of them somewhat less satisfactory than the above records (Leck, 1984). As one can see by the account on page 168 the description leaves much to be desired. Details are perfunctory at best.

Literature Cited

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- DeBenedictis, Paul A, Robert F. Andrle, Kenneth P. Able, Thomas H. Davis and Robert O. Paxton. 1984. Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee. *Kingbird* 34:216-220.
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- Leck, Charles F. 1984. *The Status and Distribution of New Jersey's Birds*. Rutgers Univ. Press.
- Poole, Earl L. 1964. *Pennsylvania Birds*. Livingston Publishing Co. American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024



*Two views of a Golden-crowned Sparrow,
Zach's Bay, Jones Beach, Nassau Co., New York, 17 October 1987.
Photographs by Adrian Dignan.*

