

## LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Cassin's Sparrow (*Peucaea cassinii*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1
3. Parish:  
Cameron
4. Specific Locality:  
On beach side of Sarastoa Drive
5. Date(s) when observed: 10/05/23
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 8:50 - 9:05 am CST, 4:45 pm CST
7. Reporting observer: Heydi Lopes
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
Chris Brantley, Pamela Morgan
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
Jack Rogers and James Smithers saw the bird again briefly in the late afternoon
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Good
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski EL 10x42
12. Distance to bird(s): Maybe 2 - 3 feet when it initially flushed, and when finally got a look at it, as it perched, probably 25 to 30 feet away. When seen later in the afternoon that same day, closer, 5 feet away.
13. Duration of observation: Initial sightings maybe for a total of less than a minute. As we walked by the low vegetation, the bird flushed, and all we could tell was that it was a sparrow. It flushed to a ditch across the other side. We walked over and did not see the bird, but did not see if fly out, so it was still in there. We played several different sparrow calls and songs (mostly sharp-tailed sparrows as it was so skulky thought it must be one of these), but no response. Finally, when Lincoln's sparrow song was played, bird popped up and promptly flew to the vegetation at the back of the house, the south side of Peveto Woods. But it perched for a few seconds when we were able to get looks at it, and I was able to get off a few shots before it disappeared. When Pamela Morgan and myself went back out again in the late afternoon (around 4:45 CST), it again flushed from the original location, the dune vegetation along the road and helpfully perched on a post, where we were able to get good looks at it, and much better photos.

14. Habitat: Beach/Dune scrub

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird stayed mostly hidden, except for a few brief flights, and when it perched on vegetation and post.

16. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species):

Slightly larger than an Indigo Bunting, overall brown in color, eyering, scaly/scallop patterned back, pale below, with pale bill and pale pink legs.

17. Voice: Did not vocalize.

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Perhaps Botteri's Sparrow, which have streaked back vs. more scaly back of Cassin's, bill of Botteri's also thicker/bigger.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Photographs obtained by Heydi Lopes

20. Previous experience with this species: Trip to Arizona summer of 2022.

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

Sibley Guide, Sibley app, eBird photos

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

23. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

Yes

24. Date report completed:

10/25/23

25. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

Yes

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Yes













