

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380

16 February 2003

Devich Farbotnik
PO Box 252
Milford Square, PA 18935

Dear Devich,

Thank you for submitting documentation of the following three records. After careful review, the Committee has voted not to accept two of the three. Here are the details:

* The Barnacle Goose at Peace Valley Park from 10 November 2000 to 17 January 2001 was accepted unanimously as to its identification, but placed in the category of birds the Committee has not considered to be definitely wild. Many records committees are taking that view, and an extensive analysis of more than 300 North American records is being co-authored by one member each of the Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Connecticut committees and is in progress toward publication. We do not yet know whether this research will ultimately change the species' status on the Pennsylvania list.

* The Whimbrel at Lake Nockamixon on 21 April 2000 was not accepted. Our members were divided in their opinions, and the balloting went two rounds before a final vote of one member in favor of acceptance and five not in favor. Those who voted not to accept the record placed it in Class IV-A as "a record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer's identification; the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt." The members felt in general that the description was too brief to eliminate the possibility of Eurasian rarities or Bristle-thighed Curlew.

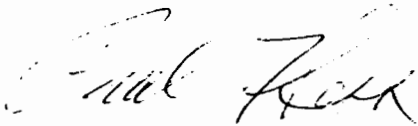
* The Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler at Nockamixon State Park on 26 November 2001 was not accepted, with a vote of two members favoring and five not favoring acceptance. The members in general felt that far too few details were offered for a judgment about what the bird was. One member commented, "This is a shame, because it is a missed opportunity. More than a yellow throat is required to ID a 'good' Audubon's. Not enough information is given to separate it from an intergrade with 'Myrtle' -- of which there are many variations with a yellow throat. For this, we need a full description of the head and face."

Non-acceptance of course does not necessarily mean that the birds were not a Whimbrel and a Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, but rather that the Committee felt the documentation did not support the identifications with sufficient certainty.

We know that our non-acceptance in these two cases will not discourage you from submitting reports on any future rarities you find.

In fact, the Committee is tremendously gratified by your recent videotaped documentations of many important records of rarities. We believe that photographic documentation might well have led to acceptance of the Whimbrel and "Audubon's" Warbler.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chair

Record Nos. 115-01-2000, 286-01-2000, 736a-01-2000

P.S. I would like to apologize for the delay in announcing our results. We are striving to process the dozens of documentations we receive each year more quickly.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round Two

Species: Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus)

Date of Sighting: 21 April 2000 to 21 April 2000

Location: LAKE NOCKAMIXON

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Devich Farbotnik, Jason Horn

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Devich Farbotnik

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead				X				
D. Heathcote D. Conchman								
P. Hess				X				
R. Ickes				X				
B. Reid			X					
R. Leberman				X				
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			1	5				
DECISION				X				

Comments: 1/5

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 7/21/02

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Date of Sighting: 21 April 2000 to 21 April 2000

Location: LAKE NOCKAMIXON

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Devich Farbotnik, Jason Horn

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Devich Farbotnik

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman				X				
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes				X				
B. Reid			X					
B. Leberman P. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			4	3				
DECISION								

Comments: 4/3 GO TO 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary):

Date: