

JackSolomon  
Pittsburgh PA

April 22, 2012

Thank you for your submission of the Spragues Pipit in Allegheny County at Imperial from March 31, 2009. The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee appreciates the time and labor involved in submitting your record. After one round of voting, the sighting was unfortunately not accepted. Although the Committee members felt that the bird could possibly be Spragues Pipit, and the description was suggestive of Spragues Pipit, there were still some reasonable doubts about the ID. The written identification does point to Spragues Pipit, but we don't feel that is detailed enough to entirely rule out all other possibilities, especially since it would represent a new state record. The sighting could very well be correct, unfortunately the committee has to go by the written description and some members felt that description fell a little short of a positive identification.

Thanks again for your report and please don't let this discourage you from future submissions. The committee depends on reports like yours to further the knowledge of Pennsylvania ornithological studies.

Sincerely,

Al Guarente  
Chairman  
Record # 693-01-2009

## **Sprague's Pipit *Anthus spragueii***

Two (2) Adults

March 31, 2009. 2pm, plus or minus 20 minutes.

Imperial, PA. Allegheny County

Near the pond known to birders as the "Main Pond," near the intersection of the Burgettstown Rd., and the Southern Beltway toll road. The bird was about 100 or 200 yards from the pond, on the berm of the road we call "Gun Club Road," but which shows on maps.google.com as Westport Rd.

Open area immediately adjacent to road. It was a clear day with plenty of light. We observed the bird with 10x8, 40mm objective binoculars (Sue's Nikon Monarchs and my Bushnell Legends) and also through my 15 to 60 power Bushnell Elite scope. The birds foraged on the ground for 5 minutes or more. Jack Solomon's notes reflect the following: I knew that if this was a Sprague's Pipit, it was a good find, but only after talking to Dave Wilton and maybe others did I know quite how rare it was around Pa. So although the observation was around 2 pm, Sue and I did not make notes until 4:10 pm the day of the observation, 03/31/2009. Initially, at about 2pm, we noticed 2 birds, about the size of large sparrows, and quickly agreed they were pipits. We were about 40 feet from them. They had eye rings, streaked, brown, backs, and did not engage in tail wagging. Often, they assumed an upright posture. Their underparts were streaked with brown, on a white background. Dave Wilton said he went up later in the day to look for the pipits but saw no pipits of any kind in the area.

\*\*\*\*\* Sue Solomon's notes reflect the following: The birds were larger than a sparrow, smaller than an American Robin. White eye ring. Streaked breast. Pink, bubble gum colored legs. Bill yellow on bottom mandible and dark on the upper. Length of bill 1/4 the length of the head). Streaked back. "Surprised" face. Light color. No tail wagging.

Upright posture. When they left, they both flew together, toward the grassy area and trees across the road, opposite to the direction of the pond. Frankly, I am not the most capable birder around. I waited so long to send this report because of lack of confidence in myself as an observer, but I am also far from the worst guy out there at field ID.

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## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Sprauge's Pipit    *Anthus spragueii*

Date of Sighting: 31 March 2009 to 31 March 2009

County : ALLEGHENY

Location : IMPERIAL

Observer(s): Jack Soloman and Sue Soloman

Date of Submission: 2010

Submitted by: Jack Soloman

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. DeReamus				X				
A. Guarente					X			
T. Johnson					X			
B. Coulter					X			
C. Rutt					X			
J. Heller					X			
G. Malosh					X			
TOTALS				1	6			
DECISION					X			

Comments:

0/7

Signature (Secretary)

Nick Pulcinella

Date:

5/4/11