

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555

June, 11, 1996

Linda Hepfner
458 W. DuBois Avenue
DuBois, PA 15801

Dear Linda,

Thank you for submitting details on the Black-throated Green Warbler you heard in Snyder Township, Jefferson County on 19 March 1995 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt that even though the description of the song matches that of a Black-throated Green Warbler, there was no description given of the bird itself. Some committee members suggested the possibility of a mimic or because of the unusual date, the possibility of a Black-throated Gray Warbler. A few committee members also felt uncomfortable accepting a record of a heard only species without a recording of the bird. This does not mean of course, that the bird was not a Black-throated Green Warbler, merely, that the details submitted do not allow for a concrete determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

Record # 740-01-1995

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555

June, 11, 1996

Sue Wetzel
458 W. DuBois Avenue
Mahaffey, PA 15757

Dear Sue

Thank you for submitting details on the Black-throated Green Warbler you heard in Snyder Township, Jefferson County on 19 March 1995 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt that even though the description of the song matches that of a Black-throated Green warbler, there was no description given of the bird itself. Some committee members suggested the possibility of a mimic or because of the unusual date, Black-throated Gray Warbler. A few committee members also felt uncomfortable accepting a record of a heard only species without a recording of the bird. This does not mean of course, that the bird was not a Black-throated Green warbler, merely, that the details submitted do not allow for a concrete determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

Record # 740-01-1995

740-01-1995

458 W. DuBois Ave.
DuBois, PA 15801
814-371-7695

April 20, 1995

Dan Brauning, Wildlife Biologist
Bureau of Wildlife Management
Pennsylvania Game Commission
R.D. #2, Box 484
Montgomery, PA 17752


Dear Mr. Brauning,

We met at the 1995 annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Wildlife Society. You had heard that my colleague and myself had heard a Black-Throated Green Warbler on March 19, 1995. This was in Brockport, Snyder Township, Jefferson County PA.

As you requested, enclosed is my write-up of this occurrence, along with some background information on my birding experience. My partner, Sue Wetzel, will also be sending you an account of this event.

It was a pleasure meeting you. Should you have any questions with regard to our hearing the Black-Throated Green Warbler, please contact me at 814-371-7695.

Sincerely,



Linda A. Hepfner

cc: S. Wetzel
Dr. J.C. Haney
Dr. C. Schaadt

740-01-1995

Date: 3/19/95
Time: 8:07am to 10:15am
Location: Brockport I, Snyder Township, Jefferson County, PA
Temperature: 40 degrees plus
Wind: 0 to 1
Observers: Linda A. Hepfner
Sue Wetzel

Sue Wetzel and myself, Linda Hepfner, were conducting a plot style winter bird census on March 19, 1995. This was a 15 hectare square plot located in Snyder Township, Jefferson County, PA. At location D3* we heard the song of a Black-Throated Green Warbler, "zee zee zee zoo zee". The bird repeated itself many times and we continued to hear it as we traversed to points D4 and D5. The bird did not sing any other version of its song. We did not have a visual sighting of the bird.

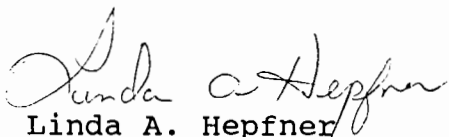
My background in bird identification by sound is as follows:

On May 16, 1994 I attended a course in identifying birds by sound and conducting bird censuses conducted by Dr. J. Christopher Haney and Dr. Charles Schaadt. The course was intense, meeting 5 days a week, 4:00am to 11:00am, and some evenings as well, and lasted through June 10, 1994. During this period, the sounds of a Black-Throated Green Warbler were heard many times, at several locations. According to my notes taken at that time, locations included plots at Treasure Lake, PA, Cooks' Forest, PA, Brockport I, PA. The Black-Throated Green Warbler was also sited at plot locations in Tionesta.

Audio tapes by Richard K. Walton & Robert W. Lawson, 1990, Peterson Field Guides, Eastern/Central Birding by Ear, have the songs of the Black-Throated Green Warbler included. I have listened to these tapes many times between summer of 1994 and March 1995.

I have participated in Winter Bird Counts for the 1994-95 season at locations in Cooks' Forest, and Brockport, PA.

Although I have not heard the Black-Throated Green Warbler call since last year, when I heard it on March 19, 1995, the recognition of this bird was immediate. The bird continued to sing, giving me the opportunity to verify the identification.



Linda A. Hepfner
Submitted April 20, 1995

* D3 is one of the linear points on our plot. It is 50 meters away from point D4, which is 50 meters away from point D5, etc.

740-01-1995

Sue Wetzel
Box 90 RD#2
Mahaffey, PA. 15757
814-277-9946

Dan Brauning
RD#2 Box 484
Montgomery, PA 17752

Dear Mr. Brauning,

I am a wildlife student at Penn State DuBois, PA. I have been informed by my professors Dr. Haney and Dr. Schaadt that you were interested in our recording of hearing a black-throated green warbler, which we heard on March 19, 1995. My knowledge of identifying birds acoustically is somewhat new, but I can assure you many hours were spent listening to just such birds.

My past experience consists of taking a very intense course the summer of 94. During this course we spent many hours in the field listening and recording birds, listening to tapes, and learning mnemonic sounds for the birds. One whole week was spent in Cook Forest going on census plots with the professors. During the winter of 94, 95 several students that took the course were asked to continue doing winter censuses on the plots in Cook Forest and Brockport. We also got together along with the help of Dr. Schaadt put in a new plot also in Brockport, (Brockport Two), which we took turns monitoring over the winter.

On March 19, 1995 Linda Hepfner and I decided to do a census on Brockport one. The day was clear and sunny with the temperature at about 40. We started the census at 8:07 am. We recorded many birds that morning before going down D-3 which is where we heard the black-throated green warbler. We stopped at the flag and recorded a brown creeper, a white-breasted nuthatch and a tufted titmouse. Then we heard it, "zee-zee-zee-zoo-zee". Linda and I both looked at each other and said at the same time "na it couldn't be". The tufted tit mouse was still calling and we heard it again "zee-zee-zee-zoo-zee". There is no mistaking that buzzy sound, we heard it so much over the summer it was burned into my brain. We recorded it and moved onto the next flag continuing to hear it sing for several more flags. I am certain what we heard was a black-throated green warbler.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely

Sue Wetzel
Sue Wetzel

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: **Black-throated Green Warbler (Dendroica virens)**

Date of Sighting: **19 March 1995 to 19 March 1995**

Location: **SNYDER TWP**

County: **JEFFERSON**

Observer(s): **Linda Hepfner**

Sue Wetzel

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **Linda Hepfner**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas				X				
N. Pulcinella				X				
E. Kwater				X				
R. Ickes				X				
G. McWilliams		X						
P. Schwalbe				X				
S. Feldstein						X		
TOTALS		1		5		1		
DECISION				X				

Comments: *Heard birds should be discussed at PORC meeting.*

Signature (Secretary):

J. C. Haas

Date:

5-1-96

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*)

Date of Sighting: 19 March 1995 to 19 March 1995

Location: SNYDER TWP

County: JEFFERSON

Observer(s): Linda Hefner

Sue Wetzel

Date of Submission: 1995

Submitted by: Linda Hefner

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas				X				
N. Pulcinella		X						
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes				X				
G. McWilliams		X						
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein						X		
TOTALS		2	2	2		1		
DECISION								

Comments: *Send for second round.*

Signature (Secretary): *J. C. Haas*

Date: *9-19-95*