

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

2469 Hammertown Road  
Narvon, Pennsylvania 17555-9726

8 June 1994

Joan & Harold Silagy  
R.D. 1 Box 1428  
Leesport, PA 19533-9612

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Silagy,

Thank you for submitting details on the Lark Bunting you saw in Tulpehocken Twp. on 2 May 1993 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we cannot accept this record. Most committee members felt that the plumage description given was too brief for a concrete determination to be made. This does not of course mean that the bird wasn't a Lark Bunting. If you have any more details of this sighting (particularly a detailed plumage description), we encourage you to re-submit this record to P.O.R.C.

Please send documentation on any rare birds you find in the future to the committee at the above address.

Sincerely,

  
Ed Kwater  
Chairman

Record # 824-01-1993

824-01-1993  
Lark Bunting ♂, winter plumage  
Tulpehocken Twp., Berks County, PA  
5/2/93 Joan & Harold Silagy

While birding <sup>in Tulpehocken Twp. at</sup> one of our favorite birding sites and also one of our most reliable locations for Vesper sparrows, <sup>on 5/2/93,</sup> we were taken aback by a Lark Bunting. The area is prime habitat for many sparrow species including the above mentioned Vesper, song, field, savannah, chipping and grasshopper. On first sighting of this bird, part of it was obscured by a branch and all we could see was that it appeared to be a large sparrow with a lot of black on the wing. As it moved and we studied it, we came to the conclusion that it was a Lark Bunting. It finally flew and we saw the large white wing patch, confirming our identification. The bird was probably a male in late winter or early spring plumage. We were familiar with this species, having seen it many times in AZ. We reconfirmed it in our own minds when we visited AZ a few days later and were fortunate enough to find a small flock of Lark Buntings, some which were in the same plumage. Are Lark Buntings like male purple finch in the spring? you see some real red ones and others still not in breeding plumage. Also, many of

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

Date of Sighting: 2 May 1993 to 2 May 1993

Location: TULPEHOCKEN TWP

County: BERKS

Observer(s): Joan & Harold Silagy

Date of Submission: 1993

Submitted by: Joan & Harold Silagy

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					
J. Skinner						X		
TOTALS			1	4		2		
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Haas*

Date:

2-23-94