

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

8 February 2001

Marge McNaught
c/o Ken Kitson
Bucks County Compiler
704 Headquarters Rd
Ottsville, PA 18942

Dear Marge,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Black-headed Grosbeak at Doylestown on 19 April 1998 (report forwarded to us by the county compiler). After careful review, the committee regrets that it cannot accept this record. Members had no particular doubt that you identified the bird correctly but felt the brief description was not sufficient for us to make a confident judgment on the identification.

The committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean that the bird was not the species reported, but rather that the committee believes the documentation submitted does not support the identification conclusively.

We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rarities you may find in the future. We are urging all birders to include as many details as possible describing the bird's physical appearance and (if any) vocalization, because these sightings are very important for the state's ornithological records.

Finally, the committee apologizes for the unacceptably long delay before all members were able to vote on the record. Circumstances beyond our control caused the problem, and we believe that we are back on a timely track.

Sincerely,

For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

P.S. Beginning this year observers will receive postcards acknowledging that the committee has received their documentation. In addition, whereas observers formerly were notified only when reports were not accepted (in disappointing or irritating letters like this one), they will now receive cards announcing that their records *have* been accepted.

Record #788-01-1998

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Lucy S

Black-headed Grosbeak April 19, 1998

We saw a Black-headed Grosbeak at 10:30 am at our bird feeding station at 13 Tupelo Cluster at Pine Run Community, Doylestown Pa. I saw the bird first, very different from anything we have ever seen before, even after having a feeding station for many years. The bird was a male and fed on the ground for a few minutes on our terraced garden near the feeders. I noticed it had a black head with the black distinctly stopping at the neck with a rusty colored breast. We are familiar with grosbeaks both Evening and Rose breasted and immediately recognized the similar shape, beak, appearance.

The bird flew off and then reappeared several minutes later. This time my husband also saw the bird and we quickly grabbed the Peterson field guide, identified the bird, and were able to compare the field marks with Towhee on the same page. Bird remained only for a few more minutes and flew off. After talking to our son and several other birders who came to see the bird, we talked to several residents, one of whom thought they saw the same bird on the same day. Bird was never seen again.

Marge and Harry McNaught

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

Date of Sighting: 19 April 1998 to 19 April 1998

Location: DOYLESTOWN

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Marge McNaught, Harry McNaught

Date of Submission: 1998

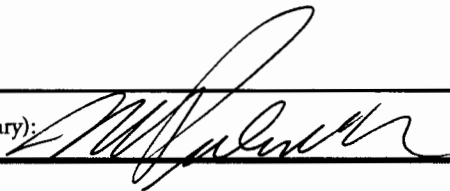
Submitted by: Marge McNaught

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO REWARDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				A bs ta in
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman					X			
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess					X			
R. Ickes					X			
J. McWilliams					X			
B. Reid					X			
P. Rodewald					X			
TOTALS					6			1
DECISION					X			

Comments: 0/6/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 1/14/01