Memo...

from the desk of RALPH K. BELL 790-01-1988

Phone Area 412—Jefferson, Pa., 883-4505 R. D. 1, Box 229, Clarksville, Pa. 15322

July 3, 1991

Dear Barbara Haas,

I note that you want proof that a Blue Grosbeak was seen here on May 22, 1988 and its good to know that the P.O.R.C. is making an effort to find out what records are really authentic.

Since I have been birding a long time (my first records were in 1927) I have seen people make quick guesses and that 2 or more competent birders should see any rare bird.

Therefore, when the second year male (some brown in plumage) was seen here on the farm by members of the Pittsburgh Auduben Society (they found it, I didn't), I had many of them sign saying that they had seen it. A xeroxed copy is enclosed. It was first noted on a dead locust tree branch (on the ground near some briers). It later flew up on to an electric wire and sang (perhaps 25 yards away) and there was no question as to the correct identity. I also saw it.

If there are more questions, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Ralph Bell

P.S. YOU folks are doing a super job with PA. BIRDS.

MAY 22, 1984 WE ALL SAW THE BLUE GROSBEAK ON THE BELL FARM OUTING Sorben Hester 5722 Beacon St Figh VA 15217
Condon Hester 6556 Rosemoon, Pills Pa. 15217 Mary Helen Chiodo 180 tamestrumbe Del Pa (5-216 Viginia Johnson 24 ROBINSMIT UNIONED ON PAT 15401 Ruch b. Williams 57 Linden Place Unintom, Pa. 15401 Marylellen Priest 111 N. Heide La. M. Murray Pa 15317 Judy Ward Rds
Bol Solvenin Boy 42 Ruffsdale 15679 Seminole PA 16253 RH Roger Kennedy 925 Climax St., Pgh., Da. 15210 MR&MRS DON BECK, PAUL & Jim Back 410 Woodrift Lane Pittsburgh, PA 15236 Carole Borek 292 Fish ST. Pyl 15201 DWIGHT LEWIS 3467 Orchard Ave Finleyuille, PX Lat Bartolo 571 Thompson Ave Donora PA 15033 Bild Eden Nighan 3473 Cherry ave Fulyville, PA 15332 Mike T Evaluen Watke 112 Skyview No. Elizabeth Pa. 15037 Pittsburgh De 15216 Pgh DA 15210 Chuck Tague 1314 Chappel Ave Rose Weber 142 Nuzum Ave PHYLLIS FLASHER MURRYSUME, PA. 15668 40 48 NORGATROL AVE Murrysville, la. 15668 MARY SHIRLAND 3537 Crest Dr. RO#1 sinn Juham Industry Pa 15052 Joe & Owe Seman Joe Francis 530 Commonwealth ave., West Mifflin, PA 15122. 456 Carnegie Dr. RHSburgh, PA 15243 San Dan & Relay Todomir Bethel Park Pri 5851 Monongahela Ave 15102 Analee Fitzgelbons 72 Royce oft live. Diase Lyselvie 23! Park Entra Int. Lebanon, Pa. 15228 73! Park Entrance PA 324 Newburn Dr. 13 5 Bayard Rd # 220 Pgh., PA 15213 231 Park Entrance Betty Guess Chirles Hobston 324 Newbura Dr. 15216 Rose Jaqus Bob and Barbar Weise Prosporty, MA Bobabonnie Feller RDI Bay 18, faint Marion, Pa. 15474 KATNY REEVES MR. YMRS 12 TO FUEL TOR

JOYCE HOFFMAN } CAME MAY 30, 1990 to SEE SUMMER TAN. 4 0. ORIOLE

July 25, 1992 Clarksville, Pa.

Dear Barb and Frank,

I was quite interested in the reason for rejecting the Blue Grosbeak record (Pa. Birds, Vol. 6, #1, p21). Since no picture was taken, I would habe thought the 35+ birders (and some were excellent birders) would have meant much more than a written discription that could easily have been copied from a bird book.

It was a 2nd year male and first viewed from within 20 yards and observed for perhaps 5 minutes by everyone. Did the Porc committee think we had seen an Indago Bunting? How experienced birders could have confused a Blue Grosbeak with an Indago Bunting is hard to believe.

As for myself, my first Indigo Bunting written record was May 21, 1928 and I have banded 323 of them for the U. Fish & Wildlife Service (one was recovered in Jamaica).

As for Blue Grosbeaks, I have even seen their nest in W. Va. where they are not to hard to find in some areas - have even called them in by using the tape recorder.

I don't really blame your PORC committee for being skeptical because I have seen plenty of so-called records published that seemed doubtful to me. Even one of your PORC committee members misidentified a species before 1978. And George Hall published a summer Blue Grosbeak record in Am. Birds for western Greene County (that someone had reported to him). After seeing the report, I checked the area and saw and heard nothing but Indigo Buntings. I doubt the record very much because the habitat wasn't right.

Enough said. R.K.B.

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## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species:

Blue Grosbeak

Date of Sighting:

22 May 1988

Observer(s):

Ralph Bell, et.al.

Date of Submission:

1991

Submitted by:

Ralph Bell

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	В	С
E. Kwater							$\times$
B. Haas							
F. Haas							
R. Leberman		X					
G. McWilliams							X
S. Santner				$\times$			
P. Schwalbe						X	
TOTALS		1				1	2
DECISION				X			

Comments: \* Abstoin

Signature (Secretary): M Haas