

790-01-1995

28 July, 1995

## REPORT OF BLUE GROSBEAK

Location - Seven miles Northeast of Patton, PA. near village of St. Lawrence in northern Cambria County

Date - 5 June, 1995 and 10 June, 1995

Amount - One

Other Observers - None

Equipment - 8.5x44 Swift Audubon binoculars

Area Description - A 250 acre wooded area was clearcut approximately 5-6 years ago. Area now contains small trees and considerable undergrowth. Predominantly black berry bushes and new tree growth of hard wood species. Area is surrounded by forests on the east and west, a marsh on the south and except for a thin wooded area (100 ft) a cultivated hay field on the north.

### Occurrence

Mourning warblers, Golden-winged Warblers and Blue-winged warblers have been located in this area in previous years. I visited this location in anticipation of locating a Brewster's or Lawrence's Warbler.

As I was walking toward the clearcut area on a dirt road leading from the highway (a wooded area on the

East side and a hay field on my right) at 8:30 a.m., a blue colored bird flew from the wooded area and alighted on a branch of a fifteen ft high snag along the road about 75 ft directly in front of me and in clear view. An Indigo Bunting crossed my mind, however I quickly realized that this bird was too large for that species. The bird remained on the snag for about 20-25 sec, which was sufficient time to identify an adult male Blue Grosbeak. The most obvious and striking field mark observed was the two wide chestnut colored wing bars. I also made note of the large size and the large thick bill as compared to an Indigo Bunting. This bird then flew back into the wooded area. I did not find this bird again on this day. !

It was partly cloudy with good lighting conditions

I returned to this area five days later on 10 June, 1995 at 7:20 am. I located a Blue Grosbeak at 8:20 am about 800 ft from the original location of 5 June, 1995. This bird was found in the clear cut area feeding about 3-5 ft above ground level among black berry bushes and low growth trees 30 ft from me. It quickly disappeared from view. At 10:00 am, while walking out of the area, I again saw a Blue Grosbeak near the original location of 5 June, 1995 in a tree about 50'-60' high. It was

Serenading me with its song while it moved from tree to tree in the same general area. I verified the song by listening to the Blue Grosbeak tape I had with me. It sang for about 2-3 minutes, then disappeared into the forest. Lighting conditions were very good with partly cloudy skies.

I did not find the Blue Grosbeak on subsequent visits to this area with Dave Gobert on 13 June, 1995 and 30 June, 1995

Previous Experience

I have been birding since May of 1984 and have travelled extensively since my retirement in June of 1989.

I have found and identified this species on eight previous occasions including the DelMarva area, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Blairsville, PA., Texas and Arizona.

As far as can be determined, this is the first Blue Grosbeak recorded in Cambria County.

John Salvetti  
519 E. Crawford St.  
Ebensburg, PA. 15931  
Ph 814-472-9298

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**

Species: **Blue Grosbeak (Guiraca caerulea)**

Date of Sighting: **5 June 1995 to 10 June 1995**

Location: **ST LAWRENCE**

County: **CAMBRIA**

Observer(s): **John Salvetti**

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **John Salvetti**

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					
<b>TOTALS</b>			7					
<b>DECISION</b>			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Haas*

Date:

5-1-96