

790-01-1996

BLUE GROSBEAK IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Ed Kwater.

On Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> 1996, Jim Valimont, Bob Macheaney and I were birding in Frick Park, Pittsburgh PA. At about 7.30 a.m. we were birding an area known as the Meadow which contains several huge elm trees. I was watching an adult ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Phenicticus ludovicianus high up in one of these trees when a second bird flew in and landed within 2 feet of it. I identified it as an alternate 1 male Blue Grosbeak, Guiraca caerulea, and alerted Bob and Jim. The bird remained in the same spot for several minutes and was eventually joined by a ♂ Indigo Bunting Passerina cyanea which provided a perfect comparison.

In size the Blue Grosbeak was intermediate between the Indigo Bunting and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak but closer to the latter. The head was largely deep blue with black lores and black chin. The mantle feathers were mixed blue and brown, the breast was deep blue and the belly and tail were brown. The wings were brown with two prominent orange wing bars, one on the median coverts and the other on the greater coverts. The upper wing bar, on the median coverts, was less prominent than on an adult ♂ Blue Grosbeak. The bill was massive and conical and gun metal gray in color. The bird was observed for approx. 5 minutes at a range of approx. 25 yards before flying off.

I have extensive experience of Blue Grosbeaks in PA, NJ, DE, VA, AZ and TX.

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*)

Date of Sighting: 9 May 1996 to 9 May 1996

Location: FRICK PARK

County: ALLEGHENY

Observer(s): Ed Kwater

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Ed Kwater

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			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

8-16-97