

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

8 February 2001

George Carmichael  
28 Jasmine Road  
Levittown, PA 19056

Dear George,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Painted Bunting in October 1998 and the Boat-tailed Grackle on 22 October 1998, both at Silver Lake Nature Center (or perhaps your notes were forwarded to us from the county compiler). After careful review, the committee regrets that it cannot accept these records.

For the bunting, based only on the brief description of a green back and an interrupted eye-ring, the committee felt that it did not have enough information to make a fair judgment about the identification.

For the grackle, members similarly felt that the details we received were not extensive enough to conclusively eliminate Common Grackle or Great-tailed Grackle.

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 with certainty. We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rarities you may find in the future.

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.

Records #794-01-1998, #863-01-1998

794-01-1998

Birds

Painted Bunting

Silver Lake Nature Center - 10/15 - 10/23/98

Report by George Carmichael

28 Jasmine Road, Levittown, PA 19056

215-945-1272

I happened to arrive at the marsh when Harvey Tomlinson returned and about about 1/2 hour after he had first sighted the bird. R. Mercer was already there and we did not sight it.

After the others departed, I stayed on and shortly saw the bird. The green color of its back was quite unlike anything else I could think of except the green of an immature Chestnut-sided Warbler, but more vivid. The eye-ring (light) was conspicuous but appeared interrupted. This short sighting was the first look that day. After birding the area a bit, I returned to check for it again. Suddenly a bird flitted across my feet and perched on the marsh vegetation. Again it was the green back (plain) which struck me (the bird was too close for binoculars) and the look was too short for many more details. Harvey had a 2nd sighting that was good for a close study and he described color changes occurring on the chest and concluded that it was an immature male bird.

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round One**

Species: Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

Date of Sighting: 23 October 1998 to 23 October 1998

Location: SILVER LAKE NATURE CENTER

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): George Carmichael

Date of Submission: 1998

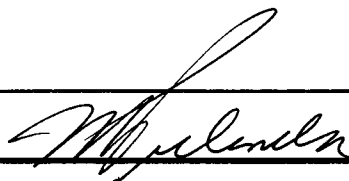
Submitted by: George Carmichael

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING 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