

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

2469 Hammertown Road

Narvon, PA 17555

September 26, 1997

Al Guarente

421 S. Old Middletown Road

Media, PA 19063

Dear Al,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Dickcissel you saw at the Philadelphia Airport on 22 October 1996 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee was concerned that the description provided did not supply enough detail of the bird's plumage to allow for a fair assessment of the record. Some members felt a description of the bill shape, back color and the presence or absence of streaking would be required to effectively rule out similar species.

This of course, does not mean the bird was not a female Dickcissel, merely, that the record is not beyond reasonable doubt for acceptance

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella

Chairman

Record # 795-01-1996

P.S. Al, if it any consolation, I voted for acceptance.

795-01-1996

**Dickcissel  
10/22/96  
at  
Philadelphia Airport**

In a quest to find some rare sparrows in the Delaware County area, I was birding behind the Philadelphia Airport on 10/22/96. It was a good day for sparrows as I found Song, White-throated, White-crowned, Savannahs, Chipping, Field, and Swamp. While walking further along the fence line I saw a bird fly onto the cyclone fence which had a yellow wash to the breast. The bird had an overall appearance and shape of a Dickcissel. The bird had, in addition to the yellow breast, a yellowish wash to the supercilium. This bird also had a chunky appearance, reminding me of a House Sparrow. I was not able to see if the bird had a chestnut wing patch because that area of the bird was hidden by the cyclone fence. However, I believe that I saw the bird well enough to confirm the identification as a female Dickcissel.

Al Guarente  
421 S. Old Middletown Rd  
Media, Pa 19063

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)

Date of Sighting: 22 October 1996 to 22 October 1996

Location: PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT AREA

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): Al Guarente

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Al Guarente

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			3	3		1		
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Haas*

Date:

8-16-97