

795-02-1996

Dickcissel at Peace Valley - 4th quarter 1996

The bird was first seen on 10/10/96 by S Farbotnik and K Rieker. The bird was only seen briefly, in poor light. But it was thought to be an unusual looking sparrow like bird. Nondescript, no white on the tail, and it appeared to have an eye ring.

On 10/13 the bird was seen again, this time in good light by I Baldoch, A Mirabella, K Rieker and T Wurtenberger. The bird was seen several times over an hour from 100 feet to as close as 20 feet. The bird was in the general area of a feeder near the field at Sailor's Point. During that time the following descriptions were noted: overall a plain gray/brown bird, slightly larger than nearby Savannah Sparrows with a larger/broader bill. A solid cap on head with fine streaking and light area around the eye. The breast had a faint yellow spot and there were malar stripes on either side of the throat. It had a buffy shoulder patch which in certain light was slightly chestnut colored. It also had a buffy nape, buff edges on secondary and primary feathers with dark centers. The back appeared to have four dark bold stripes. There was fine streaking on the lower flanks. The under tail coverts were white. The tail was notched and average length. At that time it was determined to be an immature Dickcissel almost identical to the picture in the Stoke's Field Guide, but with a faint yellow spot on the breast and a slightly bolder malar stripes.

On 11/23 (the Saturday AM birdwalk) a similar bird was seen by A Mirabella, G Hoffman, K Kitson, T Wurtenberger and several others from a distance of about 20 feet. Those that had seen the other Dickcissel felt that this was a different bird. The yellow on the plain breast and the black malar stripes on each side of the throat were decidedly more prominent on this bird. And the chestnut wing patches were very apparent. There was a definite eye stripe. It was felt that this bird more closely fit the descriptions of a female Dickcissel. The bird was reported in the area for about three weeks.

Submitted by K Kitson & A Mirabella

KEN KITSON
704 HEADQUARTERS RD.
OTTSVILLE, PA 18942

610-847-2968

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)

Date of Sighting: 10 October 1996 to 23 November 1996

Location: PEACE VALLEY COUNTY PARK

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Ken Kitson; August Mirabella

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Ken Kitson; August Mirabella

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