

## DICKCISSEL

795-03-1998

Date: 26 September 1998

Location: Wawa, Delaware County

Other Observers: Al Guarente, John Damico, Susan Damico and several others who's names I don't know.

I was taking part in a walk with a small birding group and we were working an edge area which contained mostly small shrubs and trees along with a long thicket which bordered an open grassy field. There were several White-throated Sparrows feeding in this area along with a few House Finches. As the birds flushed with our approach, a sparrow-like bird flew into a small tree and was entirely back lit by the sun. The silhouette was one of a flat-headed bird with a long sparrow like bill that seemed to project from the bird's forehead. My initial thoughts were of a Grasshopper Sparrow or Dickcissel. The bird then flew into a small tree closer and out in the open sunlight. It was clear from my distance, roughly fifty feet, that the bird had a yellow wash to the breast and the face pattern of a Dickcissel. The rest of the group was able to get on the bird, and it remained in the open at least 3-4 minutes allowing a good look.

### Description

**General Appearance** - size of a House Sparrow and similar in appearance to a female House Sparrow.

**Head** - the overall appearance of the head and face was generally brown except for a pale yellow lore and a pale brown supercillium. There was a thin dark malar stripe and a buffy-white submustachial stripe. This submustachial stripe curved under the ear coverts. The throat was white. The ear coverts were brown.

**Upperparts** - the upperparts were never clearly seen as the bird was always facing me and I was only able to visualize the bird from below. The one time I was able to view the bird from the side, the sun was shining from behind the bird offering me only a silhouette. No details of plumage could be seen.

**Underparts** - the upper breast was pale yellow. The lower breast and belly were white. The flanks were brown-white. There was no streaking on the breast, belly or flanks.

**Tail** - the tail was notched and appeared brown.

**Bill** - the bill was larger and longer than a House Sparrow and more pointed. The color of the bill was pale brown.

No call or song were heard.

Nick Pulcinella  
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# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)

Date of Sighting: 26 September 1998 to 26 September 1998

Location: WAWA

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): Nick Pulcinella, Al Guarente, John Damico, Susan Damico

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: Nick Pulcinella

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				A b s t a i n
					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: 6/0/1


