

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

7 February 2002

Melvin Troyer
872 Skunk Run Road
Mercer, PA 16137-4510

Dear Melvin,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Western Meadowlark in Lake Township on 13 March 2000. After careful review, the Committee regrets that it has voted not to accept this record.

One member voted in favor of acceptance and six voted not to accept it. The dissenting members placed the record in the Committee's Class IV-B: a record for which there exists insufficient evaluation.

Primarily their concern was the lack of a description of the song besides the brief statement that it was "more of a warble than that of the Eastern." This was not enough to give us a full understanding of the song. We needed more details describing this vocalization to assure ourselves that it was indeed a Western.

The Committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean the bird was not this species, but rather that the details were not sufficient for a conclusive identification.

We hope this will not discourage you from submitting reports of rarities in the future. Mercer County often produces rare visitors to the state, and we urge you to describe them in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

Record No. 858-01-2000

858-01-2000

RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: Western Meadowlark Date of this Observation: March 13, 2000

Date Found: March 13, 2000 Last Date Seen: March 13, 2000

Location: Skunk Run Rd Lake Township

Township/City: Lake Township County: Mercer

Person Writing this report: Melvin Troyer

Address: 972 Skunk Run Rd.

Mercer, Pa 16137-4510 Phone: None

Other Observers: Junior Troyer, Allen Troyer, Enox Troyer, Marian Troyer

Who found the bird first: Melvin Troyer Ella Troyer

Other documentation Included: (Circle all appropriate items)(Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

Photograph Audio Recording Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored? _____

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed —Please do not write on back of this form)

The only way I could truly identify this as a Western Meadowlark was by its song. It was more of a warble than that of the Eastern. There were also a couple of Eastern's around there singing but this was way different from any Eastern I ever heard so the only thing I could make out was a Western Meadowlark.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)

Date of Sighting: 13 March 2000 to 13 March 2000

Location: LAKE TOWNSHIP

County: MERCER

Observer(s): Melvin Troyer

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Melvin Troyer

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Recording: No			Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead					X			
D. Couchman					X			
P. Hess					X			
R. Ickes					X			
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald					X			
M. Sharp					X			
TOTALS			1		6			
DECISION					X			

Comments: 1/6

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 2/27/01