

8 June 1994

Dave Gobert  
R.D. 1, Box 476  
Patton, PA 16668

Dear Mr. Gobert,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Brewer's Blackbirds at Prince Gallitzin State Park on 4 November 1992. After careful review we regret that we are unable to accept this record. Several committee members felt that the details presented did not conclusively rule out Rusty Blackbird (nothing said about head shape, bill shape, head & body color). This does not of course mean that the birds were not Brewer's Blackbirds, merely that the details did not allow for a positive determination by P.O.R.C.

We would like to encourage you to submit details of any more rare birds you may find in the future.

Sincerely,

Ed Kwater  
Chairman

Record # 861-01-1992

## RARE SPECIES REPORT

861-01-1992

SPECIES: <i>Brewer's Blackbird</i>	NUMBER SEEN: 5
SIGHTING DATE: 11-4-92	SIGHTING TIME: Approx. 9 AM
LOCATION:	COUNTY & STATE: DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: <i>Cambria County Pa. Prince Galliton State Park</i> DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE: <i>none needed</i>
HABITAT: <i>swampy brushy field area near edge of lake.</i>	
SIGHTING CONDITIONS:	LIGHTING: <i>good partly cloudy AM</i> DISTANCE: <i>100ft.</i> EQUIP. USED: <i>8x40 binoculars 20x20 binoculars with <u>swift</u></i> LENGTH OF SIGHTING: <i>5-8 min</i>
DESCRIPTION:	VOICE: <i>none.</i> SIZE: <i>approx 10 in</i> PLUMAGE: <i>blackish with notably <u>whitish</u> eye all birds in flock of five appeared to have this color and eye.</i> ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): <i>bill length was shorter than grackle legs grey.</i> BEHAVIOR: <i>sitting in tree together remained together when they flew off.</i>
FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: <i>1st sighting of this species John Salvetti is very familiar with Rusty, Cowbird and other species of blackbirds.</i>	
COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: <i>The plumage was much too black to be rusty blackbird and it was too small to be a grackle, not cowbirds</i>	
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? <i>no</i> IF SO, BY WHO? <i>no</i>	
Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? <i>no</i>	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space): <i>November 4 was a day in which waves of birds were moving through P.G. John Salvetti and I had seen hundreds of birds that AM.</i>	
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: <i>Dave Gobert John Salvetti</i>	
ADDRESS: <i>RDI Box 476</i> PHONE # <i>814-674-8359</i> <i>Patten Pa. 16668</i>	
SIGNATURE <i>Dave Gobert</i>	DATE: <i>2/11/93</i>

The Brewer's came by in a small flock of five and landed in a tree about 100ft. We observed and knew they were different. John and I knew they were not grackles or cowbirds, Rusty blackbirds were also ruled out because of the overall shiny blackish appearance. There was no indication of any brownish streaking on any of the birds. The whitish eye stood out very clearly on all birds. Brewer's was suggested and due to the whitish eye they had to be all males. The plumage also did not indicate any females. John had seen Brewer's before, I hadn't. He's familiar with rusty blackbirds and has reported them in the same area. The birds remained 5-8 min in the tree then flew southward over the lake. Traps The following day and days afterwards did not show them again. We had the sun behind us at time of sighting.

Dave Gobert

John Salveti is in Florida for the winter so I could only recall what was said at the time of the sighting.

861-01-1992

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**

Species: **Brewer's Blackbird**

Date of Sighting: **4 November 1992 to 4 November 1992**

Observer(s): **Dave Gobert, John Salvetti**

Date of Submission: **1992 *Combris***

Submitted by: **Dave Gobert, John Salvetti**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas				X			
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams				X			
S. Santner				X			
J. Skinner				X			
TOTALS			3	4			
DECISION				X			

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date:

*7/2/93*