

861-01-1995

P.O.R.C.

Barb Lion

ADULT MALE BREWER'S BLACKBIRD
(Euphagus cyanocephalus)

3/25/95
forgot DATE

Lawrence County- North Beaver Township- New Castle, Pa.

The exact location is 252 Edinburg Rd. RT. 551

The bird was at this location fom about 1:30 PM to 1:40 PM *on 3/25/95*

My total viewing time was about 3 minutes or possibly 4 min. at most.

It was a sunny day with temperatures at 60°.

I was about 40 feet away from the tree the bird was in. The bird was perched at the top of a 40 to 50 foot high maple tree.

I used Zeiss 10x binoculars.

I was playing with my grandson at my daughter's house which is at the Mt. Jackson area of New Castle. My husband and son-in-law were looking at the birds in the yard.

There are 35 to 45 foot high pine trees running along one side of the 11/2 acre property. Several bird feeders full of corn and sunflower seed are placed on the property. There is also a small stream or run that goes through the property. Apple trees and other small trees are at the back of the lot but most of the property is out in the open. At the end of the line of pine trees, there is a 40 to 50 foot maple tree close to the house that had some red buds on it. The pine trees were full of grackles.

My son-in-law had just become interested in birds and asked my husband about a blackbird near the top of the maple tree. He asked George about the bird because it did not have a long tail like the common grackles that were near-by. George took a look and yelled at me to look at the bird I kept playing with my grandson and just hollered that it was probably a Red-winged blackbird or cowbird. They both yelled that I should look at the bird! We were all standing on the driveway at the time.

I turned away from my grandson and looked up at the bird. The bird appeared solid black to the naked eye except for the eye. I could not get any purple or green iridescence ~~and~~ picked up eye shine or white. I thought this might be Brewer's Blackbird from the silhouette which appeared slightly smaller in size than the grackles and this bird had a shorter tail than the grackles. The bird gave one short, loud and harsh call.

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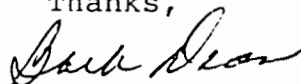
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lawrence co. ADULT MALE BREWER'S BLACKBIRD- continued

I was standing near the front of my car so I was able to get my binoculars out quickly. The bird was facing west and I checked the eye and could easily get the warm white color. It was also easy to see the purple iridescent head. There was a little breeze and some of the feathers on the left side of the head were lifted by the breeze and showed a blackish shadow. It was also easy to catch the green gloss on back and wing. There was no brown or rust or any other color on the bird. The bird gave another short loud call and turned to the northeast where I checked the bird over again for the white eye and purple and green color. Almost immediately after the bird gave the call, it flew in a northeast direction across RT 551. I could only see the bird fly from the tree to the corner of the house (two wingbeats) before it disappeared.

This Brewer's Blackbird would be a second record for Lawrence County. The first record was confirmed here by P.O.R.C. That Brewer's was at my backyard feeder on 9/28/90 and I got a much closer look at that bird. My first Brewer's experience happened on a field trip with the Bartramian Audubon Society at The Glades in Butler Co.

Thanks,



Barb Dean
321 E. Meyer Ave.
New Castle, Pa. 16105

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus)**

Date of Sighting: **25 March 1995 to 25 March 1995**

Location: **NORTH BEAVER TWP**

County: **LAWRENCE**

Observer(s): **Barb Dean**

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **Barb Dean**

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:

9-19-95