

24 April, 1999

Stephen Farbotnik
P. O. Box 134
Revere, PA 18953

Dear Steve,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Brewer's Blackbirds you saw at Erie Rd. on 22 December, 1996. The record circulated the committee for two rounds. After careful review and much discussion, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt the description was not detailed enough to eliminate other blackbird species beyond reasonable doubt. This does not mean of course that the birds were not Brewer's Blackbirds, merely that the details did not allow for a definite determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

For the Committee,
Roy A. Ickes, Chairperson

Record # 861-02-1996

Crack Team

861-02-1996

Brewer's blackbirds

- Steve Faribault
- Joe Anderson
- Bob Scheinman

App. - Bucks.

X-mas count day Dec 22, 1996

(overcast I think)

Around 11:30 AM

I don't remember the weather conditions, but the day seemed much below average for birding up till about noon, → We decided to check out Erie Rd. where years previous a red-headed woodpecker could be found. As we approached the Stoneback farm on Erie Rd. we stopped to look at a large flock of Starlings feeding on the ground around the farm buildings. Scanning them we spotted a few blackbirds feeding in their midst. We brought our scopes out and studied them at about 150' for almost 10 minutes. There were 8 blackbirds. We discussed their description as we observed them. Smaller than grackles. All of them black in color. → Four of them had iridescence on their heads and shoulders. → Rusty blackbirds at this time of year would still have rust in their plumage and never would have any iridescence on them. Red-wings would be heavily streaked at this time. Cowbirds are much smaller. Their bills were much smaller than grackles'.

That we could see

Eyes were light

The only curious thing about these birds was that they all appeared to be males (all black) Not a single one was in female plumage

I've heard from other birders that they tend to segregate themselves according to sex in winter.

I don't know?

Steve Faribault

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

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

Date of Sighting: 22 December 1996 to 22 December 1996

Location: ERIE RD

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Steve Farbotnik

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Steve Farbotnik

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				
P. Schwalbe				X				
E. Kwater				X				
R. Ickes				X				
S. Feldstein						X		
J. McWilliams				X				
N. Pulcinella				X				
TOTALS				5		1		
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F C Haas

Date:

4-19-99

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of 2

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

Date of Sighting: 22 December 1996 to 22 December 1996

Location: ERIE RD

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Steve Farbotnik

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Steve Farbotnik

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			4	2		1		
DECISION								

Comments:

Send for second round.

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

8-16-97