

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

8 February 2001

Denise Donmoyer
RD 5 Box 334
Pine Grove, PA 17963

Dear Denise,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Brewer's Blackbird at Sweet Arrow Lake on 19 September 1998 (or perhaps your report was forwarded to us by the county compiler). After careful review, the committee regrets that it cannot accept this record. The members were troubled by two elements of the description: a "definite white streak above eye," whereas a female Brewer's does not have a stripe over the eye, and "purplish tint" to the wings and tail, whereas on female Brewer's the tint on the dull brownish-gray is a very dull greenish shade. We are not sure what to suggest as an alternative species, but those two elements raised doubt among the committee members that this was indeed a Brewer's.

The committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean that the bird was not the species reported, but rather that the committee believes the documentation submitted does not support the identification conclusively.

We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rarities you may find in the future.

Finally, the committee apologizes for the unacceptably long delay before all members were able to vote on the record. Circumstances beyond our control caused the problem, and we believe that we are back on a timely track.

Sincerely,

For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

P.S. Beginning this year observers will receive postcards acknowledging that the committee has received their documentation. In addition, whereas observers formerly were notified only when reports were not accepted (in disappointing or irritating letters like this one), they will now receive cards announcing that their records *have* been accepted.

Record #861-02-1998

861-02-1998

SPECIES: Brewer's Blackbird		NUMBER SEEN: 1
SIGHTING DATE: 9/19/98		SIGHTING TIME: 3:00 PM
LOCATION: SWEET ARROW LAKE	COUNTY & STATE- SCHUYLKILL - PA. DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN- 3 MILES - PINE GROVE, PA. DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE-	
HABITAT:		
SIGHTING CONDITIONS:	LIGHTING-DISTANCE-	
female Brewer's Blackbird		
DE	<p>Spotted about 3:00 PM, Sept. 19, 1998. Location: edge of inlet swamp, east end of Sweet Arrow Lake. Spotted by boat at 20 ft. distance for approx. 10 min. Clear view, good light. Description: Robin-sized bird; main part of body brownish gray; wings and tail darker with purplish tint; bill pointed and black, not stubby or finch-like as with brown headed cowbird, not as large as grackle; legs black; dull but definite white streak above eye, darker area under white streak; black eye; tail not short like starling but not as long as grackle. Was seen traveling along edge of water picking at water lily leaves. For any additional info. needed contact:</p>	
FA	Denise Donmoyer Rd# 5 Box 334 Pine Grove, PA 17963 345 - 8952	
CC		
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN?		
HAS ANY ADDITIONAL OBSERVER(S) FILLED OUT A RARE SPECIES REPORT? IF SO WHO?		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:		
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: DENISE DONMOYER		
ADDRESS: RD 5, Box 334		PHONE NO.: (717) 345-8952
Pine Grove, PA 17963		
SIGNATURE: Tom Claman		DATE: 9/29/98

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 19 September 1998 to 19 September 1998

Location: PINE GROVE

County: SCHUYKILL

Observer(s): Denise Donmoyer

Date of Submission: 1998

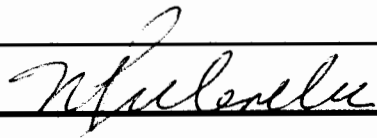
Submitted by: Denise Donmoyer

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					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		X
P. Rodewald						X		
TOTALS			2	1	1	2		12
DECISION						X		

Comments: 2/4/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 10/12/00