

861-06-1999

Brewer's blackbirds in NW Beaver county, fall 1999

On 11/19/99 a large flock of blackbirds was seen in trees in NW Beaver county at 4 pm. At least one of the birds seemed to be a BrBl: all black with a slighter lighter seeming head, white eye, no red epaulettes, bill longer and more slender than Rwb1, not a grackle (not larger than the other blackbirds, tail not long and keeled, bill not large enough). The only uneasiness in this identification was the seeming lack of iridescence - though it occurred to me that this feature might have been visible if I'd been closer, or that it might be less prominent in the particular stage of molt that this species is in during the fall - whatever that stage may be! Other species in the flock included Rwb1, RuBl, BhCo, and EuSt - the latter two in very small numbers. Total birds was more than 500. A few minutes after finding the flock, it descended to feed in a corn field.

Two days later, on 11/21/99, blackbirds were again present in good numbers, and on one occasion at least 4 male BrBl were seen at one time feeding on what seemed to be poison ivy berries about 10'-20' off the ground in good light at 40-50 yd with Swarovski 8x30s. A purple sheen had been briefly seen on the head of one of the birds when it was in a tall tree.

The few minutes of good observation time I had were spent making sure that the field marks I described above were not illusory, that is, that the birds were indeed all black, the eye white, &c. Hence, I was unable to count the numbers of each species present, nor did I have time to explicitly search for female BrBl. Moreover, I was unable to compare the overall look of the BrBl with the RuBl in order to see whether they were more slender.

My feeling is that considerably more than 4 BrBl were present - at least on the order of 20 or so - because finding one to study wasn't difficult at all.

Directions: go up Rt60 to Rt51; proceed on Rt51 toward Ohio passing Rt168; turn right onto Little Beaver Rd (about 4.1 miles after Rt168); turn right onto Braden Rd (about 50 yd); the corn fields are on the right, soybeans - where the birds also fed - on the left. The name of the landowner is Ryan T., who lives in the house on the left at the top of the rise.

submitted by Bill Hintze, 4836 Ellsworth Ave, Pgh, PA 15213
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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 19 November 1999 to 19 November 1999

Location: BRADEN ROAD

County: BEAVER

Observer(s): Bill Hintze

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Bill Hintze

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

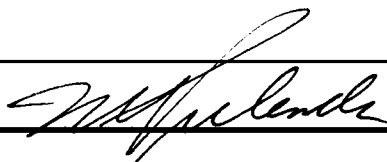
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman					X			
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald					X			
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			5		2			
DECISION								

Comments: 5/2 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 2/27/01

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round Two

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

Date of Sighting: 19 November 1999 to 19 November 1999

Location: BRADEN ROAD

County: BEAVER

Observer(s): Bill Hintze

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Bill Hintze

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

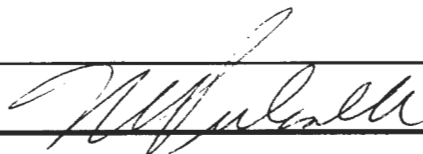
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman					X			
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6		1			
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 11/18/99