

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380

12 March 2003

Kathy Kern
322 Kennel Road
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Dear Kathy,

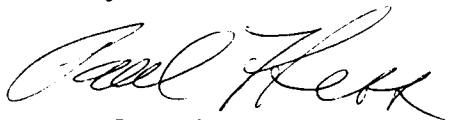
Thank you for submitting documentation of the Brewer's Blackbird on 23 November 2000 in Morgan Township. After careful review, the Committee has voted not to accept this record.

The vote was two members in favor of acceptance and five not in favor. Most of those who voted not to accept it felt that the limited amount of details did not conclusively eliminate a small first-winter Common Grackle.

One member was particularly troubled that the bird appeared "a little faded and worn." A Brewer's Blackbird in November would have molted just a short time before, and it would look brightly glossy having new feathers with a beautiful metallic bluish and purplish sheen. But a first-winter Common Grackle could look somewhat faded and worn, still having portions of its juvenile plumage.

Let me emphasize that our decision does not necessarily imply that the bird was not a Brewer's Blackbird, but simply that the Committee felt that acceptance required more conclusive evidence. We hope that our non-acceptance in this case will not discourage you from submitting reports on any future rarities you find.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chair

Record No. 861-03-2000

RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: Brewer's Blackbird Date of this Observation: 11-23-00Date Found: 11-23-00 Last Date Seen: 11-23-00Location: 322 Kennel Rd Morgan township (Feeder)Township/City: _____ County: GreenePerson Writing this report: Kathy KernAddress: 322 Kennel Rd Waynesburg, Pa. 15370Phone: 724 627 5376

Other Observers: _____

Who found the bird first: _____

Other documentation Included: (Circle all appropriate items) (Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

Photograph

Audio Recording

Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored? _____

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed—Please do not write on back of this form)

At the feeder among a large flock of mixed Black birds there were:

- 3 common grackles
- 2 Brown headed cowbirds (1 ♂, 1 ♀)
- 70 Red winged Black birds (mostly ♀ & juveniles)
- 3 Rusty Black birds (quite rusty!) and
- 3 Brewer's Blackbirds.

the 3 Birds in question looked like little grackles with their tails cropped off. they were black overall, a little faded and worn, but NOT Rusty. the eye was light with a faint lighter line above the eye. ^{the} eyes were larger than the cowbirds and longer than the Red-wings, but not as chubby as the Red-wings.

Once I had identified the other birds in the flock, these 3 did not match any of them. (the comparison was made much easier since the group was so diverse.)

I determined they were Brewer's Black Birds.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 23 November 2000 to 23 November 2000

Location: MORGAN TOWNSHIP

County: GREENE

Observer(s): Kathy Kern

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Kathy Kern

Written Description: Yes

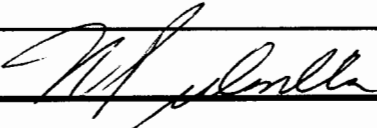
Photo: No

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		
J. Stanley			X					
B. Reid					X			
B. Leberman P. Rodewald					X			
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			2	1	3	1		
DECISION					X			

Comments: 2/5

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 11/4/01