

March 13, 2005

Devich Farbotnik
PO Box 252
Milford Square PA 18935

Thank you for sending the description of the Brewer's Blackbirds you found in Buckingham, Bucks Co. on Dec. 26, 2001. After going 2 rounds with the committee it ended up a split decision with 4 members accepting the records and 2 not accepting it and 1 abstaining. The one character that those who did not accept the report felt was insufficient was the lack of a clear description of the bill which would have ruled out a cowbird (either Shiny or Brown-headed) more conclusively.

Thankfully Brewer's Blackbird was removed from the review list in 2003. This is a species familiar to birder's and which poses more of a problem in the description than in the identification. It is a rare but regular fall-early spring visitor to the state and has a fairly predictable pattern of occurrence. The records committee felt that there was not much else to be gained from reviewing additional documentation of the species.

Sincerely

Matt Sharp
Chair: Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

861-03-2001

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Person Submitting: Devich Farbotnick

Address:

Species: Brewer's Blackbird

Observers: Found by: Devich Farbotnik

Seen by : No one else

Date Seen: 12/26/01

Where Observed: Forrest Grove Rd., Buckingham Twp., Bucks Co.

Conditions: Clear/noon time sun.

Behavior & Habitat: Farm fields with corn stubble and weeds. It was feeding with a mixed flock of about 2000 blackbirds, the majority of which were Com. Grackles with Redwings and Cowbirds as well. The whole flock was moving continuously and was skittish, flying frequently.

Description: Searching through the large flock of blackbirds, I noticed an all black bird that was smaller than the grackles. It had a light eye and smaller straight pointed bill.

Similar Species Comparison: It was bigger than nearby Br.-headed Cowbirds and did not have a brown head, short tail, or dark eye. It did not have rusty coloring as a mail Rusty Blackbird should have at this time of year. It had no red in the wings as would a Red-winged Blackbird. The Com. Grackles nearby were bigger with longer tails and the bill longer and heavier.

Other Documentation: None

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus)

Date of Sighting: 26 December 2001 to 26 December 2001

Location: BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Devich Farbotnik

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Devich Farbotnik

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. Heathcote					X			
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer	X		X					
R. Leberman				X				
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			5	1	1			
DECISION								

Comments: 5/2 GO TO 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 8/2/03

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round Two

Species: Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus)

Date of Sighting: 26 December 2001 to 26 December 2001

Location: BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): Devich Farbotnik

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Devich Farbotnik

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

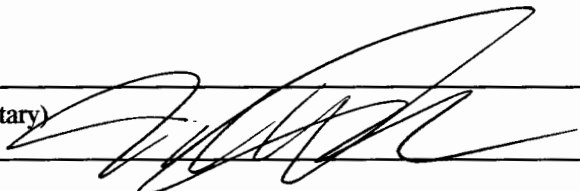
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead								
D. Heathcote				X				
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X	X				
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman				X				
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			4	2				
DECISION				X				

Comments: 4/2

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/20/04