

March 13, 2005

Marty McKay  
814 E Lake Rd.  
Transfer PA 16154

Thank you for sending the description of the Brewer's Blackbirds you found on Oct. 27, 2002. After going 2 rounds with the committee it ended up a split decision with 4 members accepting the records and 3 not accepting it. Those who did not accept the report felt that Common Grackle was not ruled out carefully enough

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.

861-02 2002

## RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: BREWER'S BLACKBIRD Date of this Observation: 10/27/02Date Found: 10/27/02 Last Date Seen: 10/27/02Location: EDGE OF SHENANGO RIVER RESERVOIRTownship/City: ~~FAA~~ PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP County: MERCERPerson Writing this report: Marty McKayAddress: 814 E. Lake RoadTransfer, Pa. 16154 Phone: 724-962-7476Other Observers: none

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)

On 10/27/02, at the edge of Shenango R. Res., at 11:00 AM, with partly sunny skies, 2 BREWER'S BLACKBIRD eating dogwood berries were viewed from 30 feet, through 8 power bins, for 4 to 5 minutes.

Both birds were all black, robin sized, with pale yellow eyes, with a glossy purple shine on the head. (NOT greenish as in Rusty blackbird). The Tertials and wing Coverts were plain black with no hint of buff or brown on the edges (to further eliminate Rusty). The bill was black and narrow, shorter than the head. The overall body look was slim and sleek.

I have had ~~had~~ viewing experience of Brewer's in several western states, and have seen many Rusty's locally.

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round Two**

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

Date of Sighting: 27 October 2002 to 27 October 2002

Location: SHENANGO RESERVOIR

County : MERCER

Observer(s): Marty Mckay

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Marty Mckay

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

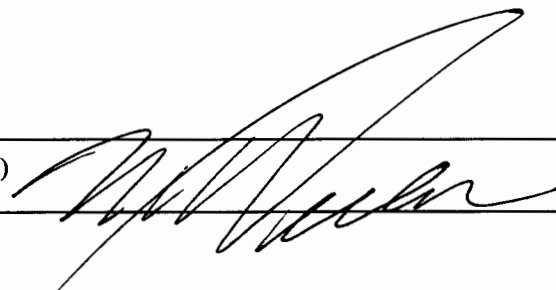
Specimen: No

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. Heathcote				X				
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman				X				
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			4	3				
DECISION				X				

Comments: 4/3

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/10/04

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round One**

Species: Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus)

Date of Sighting: 27 October 2002 to 27 October 2002

Location: SHENANGO RESERVOIR

County: MERCER

Observer(s): Marty McKay

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Marty McKay

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

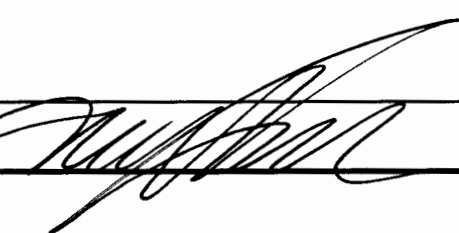
Specimen: No

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					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			5	2				
DECISION				X				

Comments: 5/2 go 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 6/12/03