

**PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM**

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

**Nick Pulcinella, Secretary**  
**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**  
613 Howard Ave.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

861-01-2003

**SPECIES** (common and scientific name) Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus)  
**Subspecies** (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS** 1 **SEX(ES)** male

**AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S)** (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): adult nonbreeding plumage

**DATE OF OBSERVATION** 1/31/03 **TIME** 10:30 a.m.

**LOCATION** (city, borough, township) Elton, Adams Township

**EXACT SITE** (e.g. name of park, lake, road) By the Elton Sportsman Dam

**OBSERVER REPORTING:**

Name Ross Gullardy  
Address 306 Kim Lane  
City Windber State PA ZIP 15963  
e-mail (optional) Ross.Ross7@aol.com phone (optional) (814) 266-5967

**OTHER OBSERVERS** (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HABITAT** (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) First saw in a tree along a swamp that is 150 yards by 30 yards. It then flew about 70 yards to another tree along the edge of a 15 acre field.

**DISTANCE TO BIRD** At first around 50 yards then walked to within 30 yards

**VIEWING CONDITIONS** (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Completely Cloudy It had in been snowing earlier in the day but had stopped at the time that I saw the bird.

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED** Celestron Noble PC Binoculars 10x50 power

**DESCRIPTION** (Include as much detail as you observed – size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): I first saw the bird flying. Its flight was more like a grackle than a blackbird. The first tree it landed in had 30 House Finches in it. The brewer's Blackbird was a few inches smaller than the length of two House Finches. The tail was long but not as long as a Common Grackle. The tail was also square. The bill was short and thin. The bill length seemed to be the distance from the base of the bill to the pupil. The eye was a pale yellow color. Do to the sun not shining I couldn't see if it had a glossy plumage. The plumage was all black except for there was a slight rusty brown color on the malar, nape, and supercillium. It also had dark colored legs and bill.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

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**BEHAVIOR** (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) The bird landed in a tree. While sitting in the tree all it did was look around. After about 5 mins. another black bird (the second bird was only seen for a few seconds and couldn't be ID) flew by the tree and the Brewer's Blackbird took flight and joined the other. I followed them and found the Brewer's Perched in a tree by itself. While sitting in this tree it bobbed its tail about 6 times then it flew and was not  
**VOCALIZATIONS**  
I heard a few short notes but can not describe them.

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:**

Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographer/recorder/illustrator:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

**IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:**

General condition \_\_\_\_\_  
If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

**SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES** (how you eliminated others) Common Grackle - I eliminated this species by the the tail being square and not round. The bill was short and thin unlike in a Common Grackle were it heavy and long. Also the bird I observed was smaller than the length of two House Finches were using a common grackle would be around the same size as two house finches. Rusty Blackbird - See other page.

**DISCUSSION** - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

On January 18 I came home from birding at Shawnee State Park and saw a blackbird at my feeders. It was sitting by a Mourning Dove and was smaller than the dove. I grabbed my camera but the bird flew. I only saw it for about 10 seconds before it flew. The bird seemed to be a Brewer's Blackbird but I didn't get a good enough look to confirm an ID. I believe the bird I viewed today Jan. 31, 2003 is the same bird I saw two weeks ago. When I viewed it at my feeder I was only 10 ft. away.  
(Please use an additional page if necessary)

**PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES**

I had experience with Brewer's Blackbird when I was in Wyoming in June 2001 and when I was in Arizona during July 2002. The two similar species Common Grackle and rusty blackbird I see every year here in PA.

**ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION?** (why or why not) Yes I am positive. I have had much experience with Brewer's Blackbirds and got a good enough look at the bird to confirm my ID.

**REFERENCES CONSULTED:**

During observation None  
After observation The Sibley Guide to Birds and National Geographic Birds of North America  
3rd edition

**DATE OF THIS REPORT:** 01/31/03

**SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER** Ross P. Gallardy

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Separation From Similar Species (continued) Rusty Blackbird-  
I eliminated this species because the bird I observed  
had a straight bill and not a curved bill like a Rusty Blackbird.  
I also eliminated the species because the bird I  
observed only had a slight amount of brown rusty color on  
its malar, nape, and supercillium. Where as a Rusty bird  
bird at this time of year has a brown rusty color on its  
head, breast, and wings.

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round One**

Species: Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus)

Date of Sighting: 31 January 2003 to 31 January 2003

Location: ADAMS TOWNSHIP

County : CAMBRIA

Observer(s): Ross Gallardy

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Ross Gallardy

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. Guris					X			
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman								
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			5		1			
DECISION			X					

Comments: 5/1

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

4/1/04