

RECORD FORM FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

SPECIES: Dickcissel

DATE: June 4, 2012 **NUMBER:** 1 **AGE/SEX** Unknown/Male

LOCATION OF SIGHTING: Cold Lake Lakeshore between Provincial Park and Marina. See attached link to google map location

TIME: ~07:30 **LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED:** 10 seconds

HABITAT: Lakeshore of Cold Lake, Boreal forest surrounding and small town suburban vegetation nearby.

BEHAVIOR OF BIRD: Flying overhead, in a western direction

OBSERVER(s): Stuart Mackenzie, Yousif Attia

DISTANCE TO BIRD: probably 30m overhead at the closest

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: both have Swarovsik 8.5 x 42 EL

WHO FIRST SAW BIRD? Bird first heard simultaneously as an unfamiliar chip call by Yousif Attia and Stuart Mackenzie while on a Big Day. Both observers looked for the calling bird overhead and Stu got onto it while it was flying in a SW direction. Yousif did not get a visual on the bird but heard it well enough to know it was not any of the regularly occurring species. Stu observed the bird well enough to describe it as a finchlike bird with a black chest band and white throat.

WHO FIRST IDENTIFIED BIRD? Stu Mackenzie, who had heard and observed a Dickcissel in southern Ontario earlier that spring and has observed at least 10 in Ontario and elsewhere in North America. Yousif has seen 2 in Ontario, 1 in Alberta and countless across other parts of the United States in the past 10 years.

WEATHER AND LIGHTING CONDITIONS? Overcast sky, extremely foggy on lake but clear on land, no wind, 12 degrees celcius

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? NO **VOICE/CALLNOTES?** NO

COMPARISON SPECIES PRESENT? Not applicable,

EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIES? Stu has observed at least 4 Dickcissels on migration in Ontario where they were observed in a similar fashion (ie. Migrant flyovers)

WAS A FIELD GUIDE USED WHILE THE BIRD WAS UNDER OBSERVATION? Field guide was consulted after bird was observed to the maximum extent. We consulted field guides on our phones including Sibley and National Geographic and played back numerous versions of the flight call on iPhones (iBird, Stokes Guide to Bird Song).

IF SO, HOW DO YOU THINK IT MIGHT HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR DECISION? No influence, we were confident in the sighting upon discovery.

ARE YOU 100 % CERTAIN OF THE IDENTIFICATION? YES

HOW WERE SIMILAR SPECIES ELIMINATED? No other species shares the same flight call. Call description was a short sharp, harsh, jjrrtt jrtrt jrtrt. Also other species of that could be confused

visually include Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak. All did not match visually and have distinctive calls that also don't match the bird in question. _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OBSERVER(s):

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See over for sketch of bird and detailed description