

## WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species: HARRIS'S SPARROW Number: (leave blank)                       
 Location: MIDDLE ISLAND, PLEASANTS COUNTY, WV Date: 4-17-17 Time: 3:10-5:10 PM  
 Bird Seen: 3:10 PM To: 5:10 P.M. Age/Sex: ADULT

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

LONG TAIL, LONG WINGS, SORT OF STOCKY BODY, LARGER THAN SONG SPARROWS & WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS, SMALLER THAN EASTERN TOWHEES. LONG WINGS, PRETTY LARGE HEAD & STOUT BILL - PINK. SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS.

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

DARK CROWN, THROAT AND FRONT OF FACE. BLACK-DARK GRAY. FACE PALER WITH SMALL BROWNISH MACK. BACK DARK BROWN-GRAY WITH SOME LIGHTER STREAKING. WHITE WING-BAR. PALE UNDERSIDES (WHITE) WITH SOME DARK STREAKING SIDES OF BREAST & UPPER BREAST. PINK BILL WITH DARK TIP. SEE ATTACHED PHOTOS

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

SANG ON 4-16-17, BUT I DID NOT SEE IT THAT DAY. ONLY SANG ONCE ON 4-17-17, BUT I DID NOT HEAR IT. THE SONG ON 4-16-17 WAS THREE NOTES REMINISCENT OF START OF WHITE-THROATED SPARROW SONG. FIRST NOTE LONGER, NEXT TWO SHORTER, ALL SAME PITCH. THEN IT WOULD REPEAT THREE NOTES AT A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PITCH

Description of behavior:

IT WAS FEEDING IN GRASSY-WEEDY AREA NEXT TO GRAVEL PARKING AREA AND BRUSHY AREA. IT WOULD HOP AROUND ON THE GROUND AND FEED. OCCASIONALLY IT CHASED OTHER SPARROWS AWAY. IT FLEW INTO BRUSH SEVERAL TIMES AND THEN CAME BACK TO THE GROUND TO FEED SOME MORE.

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN WITH GRASSY-WEEDY BORDER & GRAVEL PARKING AREA. BIRD HEARD SINGING FROM BRUSH AROUND TWO MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS IN AREA.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)  
BIRD 20-30 YARDS AWAY IN GRASS/WEEDS. OBSERVED WITH SWALOVSKI ST-80 SPOTTING SCOPE 20X-30X, AND WITH SWALOVSKI ATX WITH 65MM SCOPE BODY 20X-30X. SWIFT AUDUBON MODEL 820 8.5X44MM BINOCULARS, VORTEX VIPER HD 8X40 BINOCULARS. SUNNY WITH A FEW CLOUDS. SUN MOSTLY OVERHEAD & SLIGHTLY TO OUR LEFT.

Previous experience with this species: I LIVED IN OKLAHOMA (MUSKOGEE) FOR 12 YEARS. HARRIS'S SPARROWS WERE REGULAR WINTER VISITORS TO OUR FEEDERS EVERY YEAR. I HAVE SEEN A COUPLE HUNDRED OR MORE.

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

ONLY EASTERN TOWHEES & DARK-EYED JUNCOS HAVE THE DARK HEAD. NEITHER HAS THE PALE FACE, WHITE UNDER PARTS WITH DARK STREAKS SIDE & UPPER BREAST

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report. BARBARA NEAL HORMAN, [REDACTED]

WILMA JARRELL, [REDACTED]  
BILL BUTLER, [REDACTED]  
PAT COLLINS, [REDACTED]

Additional observer signature: [REDACTED]

Additional observer signature: [REDACTED]

Additional observer signature: [REDACTED]

SIBLY GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA ON AN iPad mini 2, AND iBird Pro: NORTH AMERICA ON iPad mini 2. ALSO USED VOCALIZATIONS OF THESE APPS THROUGH EAR BUDS TO CONFIRM SONGS.

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? I STARTED WRITE-UP THAT EVENING (4-17-17), FINISHED NEXT AFTERNOON WITH NEAL HOHMAN'S PICTURES TO HELP. (4-18-17)

Name:

JON BENEDETTI

Address:

[REDACTED]

Date:

4-18-17

Signature:

[REDACTED]

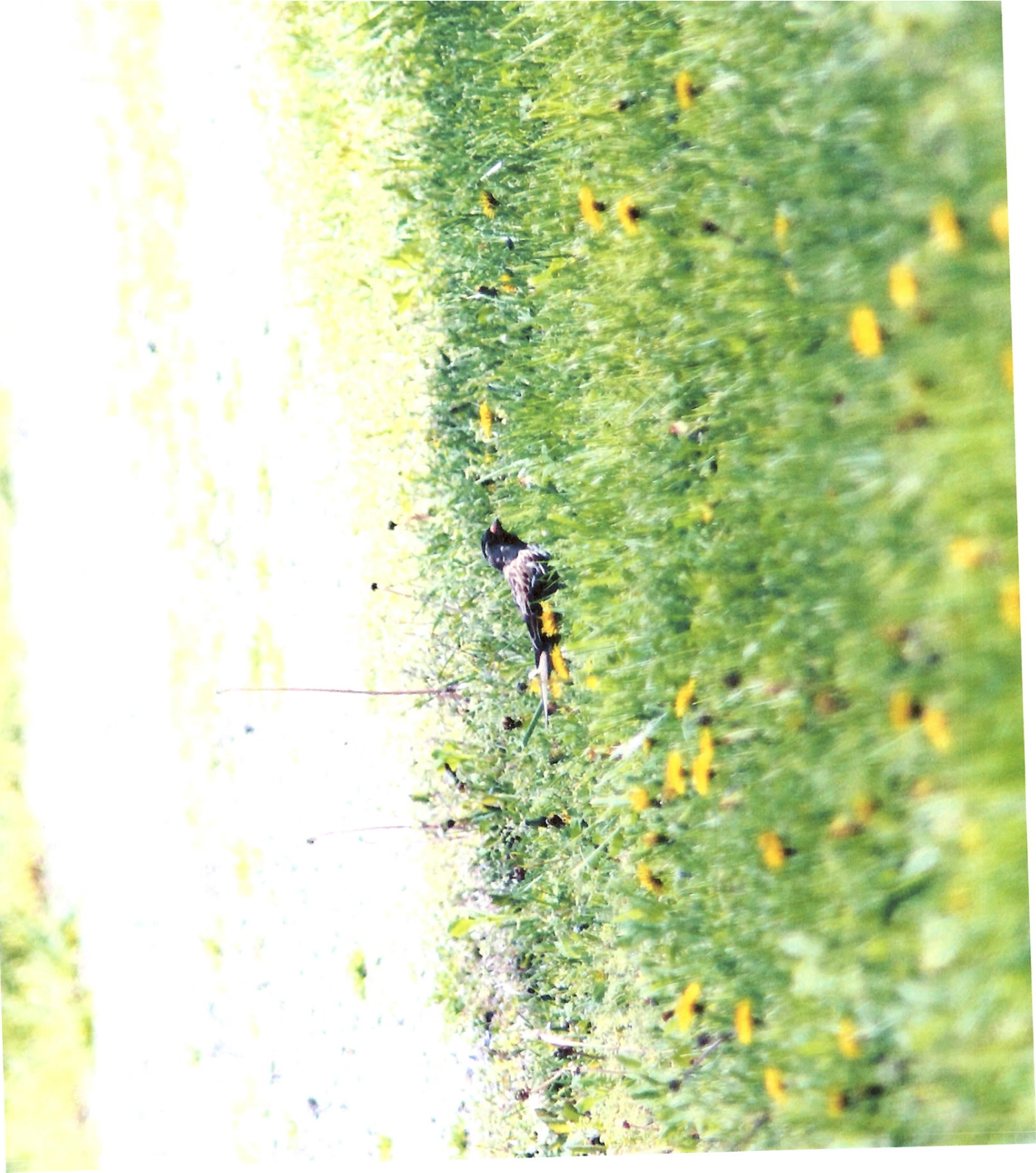
Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee  
Attn: Wil Hershberger  
170 Stallion Ct.  
Hedgesville, WV 25427  
Or E-mail to:  
wilhershberger@mac.com

ARE ON THE BACK OF TWO OF THE PHOTOS.

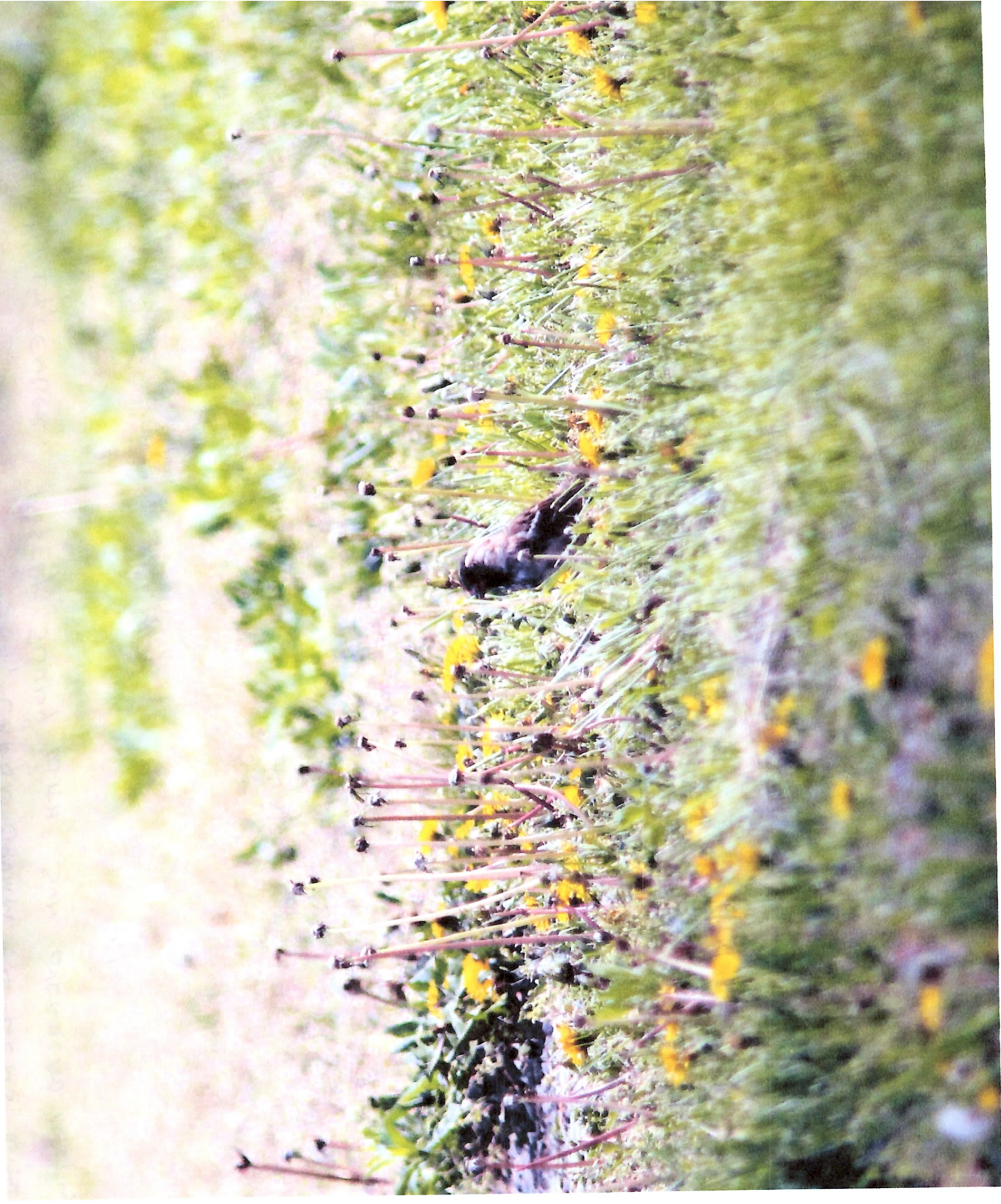
NEAL ITOHMAN 4-17-17 MIDDLE ISLAND



NEAL HOHMAN 4-17-17 MIDDLES ISLAND



NEAL HOHMAN 4-17-17 MIDPUE ISLAND



NEAL THOMAS 4-17-17 MIDDLE ISLAND





JON BENEDETTI

4-17-17

MIDDLE ISLAND



# WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species:  Number: (leave blank)

Location:  Date:  Time:

Bird Seen:  To:  Age/Sex:

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)  
Large Sparrow shape - about 6 inches  
Tail about 2 inches - tail longer than a Song Sparrow  
Conical bill

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)  
Distinctive black crown, face (frontal) and throat  
Light colored bill  
Gray patch area on cheek surrounded by brown  
Upper chest - various streaks of black hanging like a "necklace"  
White belly

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:  
Series of two long clear whistles on the same note  
Would occasionally change this same long clear whistle pattern in a higher pitch  
Occasional strong chip like calls  
All calls and chips heard and observed (via scope) while perched high in a tree

Description of behavior:  
Would forage on open ground in low grass/weeds mixed with occasional brush areas. It would then fly up and perch in trees just on the edge of the open ground

Habitat: (General and Specific)  
Middle Island is a bar island.

Bird was seen near two pole buildings and the walking path. Area surrounding the building was slightly weedy/low grass and largely open ground. Occasional patches of brush in this open area. The far side of this open ground was edged with taller trees of various types and heights.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)  
First look was about 40 ft with binoculars in a lower branch of small tree close to one of the pole buildings. Eventually scoped high in the tree from 100 feet. We then carefully worked in on the open ground to about 40ft away while it was perched in higher tree branches.  
Lighting - partly cloudy day. Bird largely shaded by the trees. Not much green foliage, but numerous branches caused the shades.  
Pictures of bird (enclosed) digiscoped with iPhone 6.

Previous experience with this species:  
None

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)  
I have seen plenty of House Sparrow with dark (black) face....but the dark of the house sparrow is not as distinctive as the Harris's sparrow black patch which extends up and over the crown.

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report

Steve McCarthy

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and especially how did these influence this description:  
Prior to viewing, Steve McCarthy and I consulted The Sibley Guide to Birds and the Audubon Birds App for iPhone.

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
2 days

Name:	Marcy Wesel
Address:	[REDACTED]
Date:	04/17/17
Signature:	[REDACTED]

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee  
Attn: Wil Hershberger  
170 Stallion Ct.  
Hedgesville, WV 25427  
Or E-mail to:  
wilhershberger@mac.com

