1st Round Votes/Comments (6-3)

TLE: A

WRP: A; While a photo would have been nice, all things considered I think this is good description of a plausible record by an outstanding observer.

MF: A; Can't think of a reason to reject other than a vague uneasiness about single-observer first state records with no photos. Not sure that is a standard we want to apply across the board, but maybe we do.

ID: A; Solid description by capable observer, time of year somewhat fits with general pattern of other extralimital east coast records (e.g. 2 in NC). Dark eye and description of overall build of bird eliminates BRBL, BHCO, and BROC for me.

TS: A

SS: R; I was the only one to reject this record originally. I  
rejected the report specifically because for a first state record I felt (and  
still do) the write up should have been more detailed, when it’s a single observer  
record. The committee has seen many excellent write-ups from observers over the  
years. Vern is an excellent field observer and I’m sure he had a Shiny Cowbird,  
but if this wasn’t Vern’s record (or some other very experienced observer) then  
I probably wouldn’t have given it much of a thought.  Still vote to Reject.

RS: R; I don't find this casual description convincing enough for a first state record, especially since there isn't much description regarding why this bird was surely a "cowbird."

BN: A; I see no reason to overturn the original decision on this report.

JRT: R; While I do fully believe this sighting, I wonder about sticking to a policy of requiring more for essentially a single-observer first state record.

2nd Round Votes/Comments (7-2)

TLE: A; Like Blair and Wayne, I see no reason to change my original "yes" vote, but it is worth briefly restating why we accepted the original record 8-1.  Vernon had B&L 8x42 binocs in excellent light @ 60' and observed the bird perched on a chimney for 10 mins.  To eliminate other species, the uniform shiny, irridescent plumage eliminates BHCO & BROC; dark eye eliminates BRBL, RUBL (yellow) & BROC (red).  He describes longer tail and thinner bill.  A frontal system had just cleared out & 14 Oct is a believable date.  Observer is very competent and familiar with SHCO in the field. Unless we reject all records without photos and multiple observers for 1st records, this is acceptable.

WRP: A; This report still registers as a perfectly good observation by an outstanding and experienced observer who at once recognized the species for what he believed it was.

MF: A.

ID: A; Think this is good for part of the discussion as to what a first state record entails.

TS: A; Move to discuss. Description seems better than some of the others we are recirculating. Committee needs to discuss how detailed submissions need to be.

SS: R.

RS: R; Opinion has not changed.

BN: A; No change.

JRT: A; I was glad to hear of others concerns on support for first state records needing to be perhaps more robust. Having said this, I am finding myself more in the camp of acceptance on this record at this point. I feel that the observer's experience is of course solid. Piecing together all the characters noted in the description, I find a solid description of a Shiny Cowbird. He compares the birds bill structure in terms of a BHCO for example as well as descriptions of the eye, plumage coloration and overall structure.

 