

538-01-1991

Second State Record of Pacific Slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) in Lancaster County
Eric Witmer

A Pacific Slope Flycatcher was observed on the Southern Lancaster County Christmas Bird Count on 15 December 1991. The bird was observed in a wooded ravine with a small stream/spring, near the intersection of Haines Station Road and Grubb Corner Road, Fulton Township, Lancaster County, Pa. The bird was seen from 1100-1145 and again from 1515-1600 hours. The sky was partly cloudy. Observations were made with 8X and 10X binoculars.

Field notes. A small *Empid* flycatcher with medium green back, wings, and head with two buffy-yellow wingbars. The breast was yellow down through the undertail coverts. The upper breast had dusky coloration on the sides, giving the bird a vested look (brighter yellow at center of breast). The head was slightly peaked toward the crown. The eyering was incomplete on the top of the eye, very thin (easily not seen) on the bottom portion of the eye, noticeable at the front of the eye and most prominent at the back of the eye tapering away giving it a tear drop look.

The lower mandible was orange and occasionally in better light red-orange. The top mandible was dark. Tail wagging was observed with an occasional wing twitch. The bird was observed mostly low to the ground (<5 feet), but on several instances it was in a deciduous tree 15-25 feet. At one point the flycatcher vocalized high in the tree about five times in about a minute. A thin metallic "zeet" type note was made.

We were familiar with the Pacific Slope Flycatcher which had been found nearby (about seven miles distant) in December 1990.

Initial Observers: Jan Witmer, Tom Garner, Fred Habegger, and myself.

Frank Haas and I photographed the bird the next day and Frank was also able to get a tape recording of it that next day (16 December 1991). Unfortunately, it was not found on subsequent trips the following weeks.

805 Pointview Ave.
Ephrata, PA 17522

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Pacific Slope Flycatcher**

Date of Sighting: **15 December 1991 to 16 December 1991**

Observer(s): **Eric Witmer, Frank Haas**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Eric Witmer, Frank Haas**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater	X						
B. Haas	X						
F. Haas	Abstain						
R. Ickes	Abstain						
G. McWilliams	X						
S. Santner	X						
J. Skinner				X			
TOTALS	4			1			
DECISION							

Comments:

To go to second round -
Suggest sending tapes to Cornell

Signature (Secretary):

Frank Haas

Date:

2-27-93