

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2016-01-09 18:35:23
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Michael David
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<b>Phone</b>	4123906773
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 7420 Ben Hur St City: Pittsburgh State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15208 Country: United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Alex Lamoreaux, Sarah Hungerford, David Yeany II
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Empidonax difficilis
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	12-24-2015 11:00 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S26439343">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S26439343</a>
<b>County</b>	Berks
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Bern Township
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Berks County Heritage Center
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	40.371735, -75.976389
<b>Habitat</b>	Brushy Treeline along open park
<b>Distance to bird</b>	15 feet
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Overcast
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Bushnell Discoverer 8x42 binoculars, Swarovski ATX-95 scope
<b>Description</b>	<p>Empidonax flycatcher by size, structure, and general plumage pattern. Bill somewhat wide, with dark upper mandible and all yellow lower mandible. Greenish yellow head and back with more yellowish throat and underside. Blackish brown wings with white edges and wingbars. Complete white eyering in "teardrop" shape, wide at back of eye and narrow elsewhere. Primary extension medium-short, with one proportionally large gap between stacked primaries on folded wing.</p> <p>Gave two-toned, slurred, rising "position note" several times and well as shorter notes.</p>

**Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)**

Stayed low in brush, sitting still for minutes at a time, or moving between various perches with understory making apparent foraging attempts.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

Most empidonax species lack the strongly yellow tones of this bird. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has blacker wings, typically a dusky upper breast/vest pattern, different spacing on stacked primaries, different shape to eyering, and different voice.

Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers are in some taxonomic doubt and have been lumped as Western Flycatcher in the past. These taxa are not known to have diagnostic visual differences. As long as they remain separate, the vocalizations of this bird match squarely with textbook Pacific-slope Flycatcher vocalizations. Recordings from Tom Johnson (<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S26424876>) show a single phrase with a downward turn, strong inflection point, and steep rising finish. I heard this call several times, though did not manage to get a recording of my own. In contrast, the corresponding typical "position note" from Cordilleran Flycatcher usually has a gap between two phrases which are concave throughout (decreasing slope). As a rough comparison to eastern flycatchers, to my ear the Cordilleran call is somewhat reminiscent of a less emphatic Acadian Flycatcher song; the subject bird sounds more like an extremely rapid Eastern-Wood Pewee.

**Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)**

yes, due to the recordings of the position note in combination with visual characteristics.

**During**

Sibley Guide

**After**

<http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/2996>

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Berks Co, PA 2.JPG](#)



[Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Berks Co, PA 3.JPG](#)



[Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Berks Co, PA 4.JPG](#)



[Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Berks Co, PA.JPG](#)