











NOV. 2, 1991

543-01-1991

LARRY + ARLENE BROWN

RD # 2 Box 187

MILLERTON, PA. 16936

717-537-2730

VERMILLION FLYCATCHER
PYROCEPHALUS RUBINUS
TIOGA COUNTY

ARLENE BROWN

DATES: OCT. 24 + 25, 1991

LOCATION: ROUTE 549 15 MI. north of Mansfield, Pa., 5 mi. south of the New York state line. In a pasture with a small creek and a pond. The area is open and relatively flat and low with hawthorns, willow trees and apple trees. Wooded areas on the edge, large multiflora rose bushes and high weeds at places.

OBSERVERS: 10-24-91 - me 10-25-91 Deanne Hoffman, Barb + Frank Hoos, Larry Brown and Bob Ross.

OCT. 24, 1991 was overcast and windy 65° high temperature.

I was walking back home after spending several hours birding when I saw a bird perched on a hawthorne snag in the middle of the pasture. When I looked at it with my Bausch + Lomb 10x40 custom binoculars I saw that it was a vermilion flycatcher. I had seen one before in California where they are a casual visitor, so I found it easily identifiable, but just had a hard time convincing myself it was here in Pa. This was just before noon. It was a little smaller than a phoebe with dark brown above, white throat and upper breast with streaking on the breast and belly with undertail coverts a bright peach bluish color. The striping on the breast looked dark except on Friday Oct. 25, 1991 at 3:30 pm. The light was so that the streaking showed peach bluish colored spots and earlier we had noticed that when the wind blew the feathers up on the head it appeared to be peach bluish colored underneath, so I feel that it was an immature male.

I decided after the bird stayed in one place more or less for ten minutes I would run to the house and get the camera (Pentax K1000 with a MACRO 75-210 zoom lens + doubler - 400 mm max) I am not familiar with the camera because Larry always comes

along and takes the pictures, but I decided today is the day I will learn to use this camera. When I got back out to that spot it took me about five minutes to find the bird again, this time it was in a tall tree on the hill beside the original spotting. I climbed the hill, spent 10-20 minutes fumbling with the camera, just figured out finally how to use it and the bird flew down to the pasture. I spent ten minutes searching for the bird again before I found it. I took many pictures and got to within 20 ft. of the bird. I watched it for a while then decided I better call someone because it had stayed so long already maybe someone else could get to see it. I made some calls - ran back out & spotted the bird. Watched for a while - ran back & made some more calls. Ran back out and spotted the bird. (In case it isn't obvious by now this bird was just behind my house.) By evening I was slightly hysterical because the bird had been here so long and no one else saw it.

Oct. 25, 1991 - Sunny, quite windy at times, high 70°. 7:00 AM. Deane Hoffman pulled in. We went out as it got light to search for the bird. We spotted it at 9:00 AM. The bird was approachable and easy to watch if you stayed 20-30 feet away. We watched it for a while then Deane called Barb & Frank Hoas to let them know it was still here. Deane took several pictures with our camera & when they got here Barb & Frank took several pictures using _____ CAMERA _____ telescope. They left and Larry Brown, my husband came home from work. He was out there at the same time the peach spotting on the breast was quite evident & got pictures too. Bob Ross got here around 5:30 PM. While we were watching the bird at 5:50 PM an AMERICAN KESTREL flew through & the bird took off. We saw it land on a tall elm tree while the kestrel went off to the right. Then the bird went down & wasn't seen again. We had many disappointed birders here OCT. 26 & 27, 1991, I have been out every day since then and have not seen it. This is the first documented sighting in Pa.

543-01-1991

For U5-4

Pennsylvania's First Record of Vermillion
Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)
Tioga County
Arlene Brown

Dates: 24 and 25 October 1991

Location: Route 549, 15 miles north of Mansfield, 5 miles south of the New York state line. In a pasture with a small creek and a pond. The area is open and relatively flat and low with hawthorne, willow trees, and apple trees. Wooded areas on the edge, large multiflora rose bushes, and high weeds at places.

Observers: 24 October, myself. 25 October, Deuane Hoffman, Barb and Frank Haas, Larry Brown, and Bob Ross.

Weather: 24 October was overcast and windy with a high of 65°F. 25 October was sunny, quite windy at times, with a high of 70°F.

@Description: I was walking back home after spending several hours birding when I saw a bird perched on a hawthorne snag in the middle of the pasture. When I looked at it through my Bausch & Lomb 10X40 Custom binoculars I saw that it was a Vermillion Flycatcher. I had seen one before in California where they are a casual visitor, so I found it easily identifiable, but just had a hard time convincing myself it was here in Pennsylvania. This was just before noon. It was a little smaller than a phoebe, with dark brown above, white throat and upper breast, with streaking on the breast and belly, with undertail coverts a bright peach blush color. The striping on the breast looked dark except on Friday, 25 October 1991 at 1530 h. the light was so that the streaking showed peach blush colored spots and earlier we had noticed that when the wind blew the feathers up on the head it appeared to be peach blush colored, so I feel that it was an immature male.

Events. I decided after the bird stayed in one place more or less for ten minutes I would run to the house and get the camera (Pentax K1000 with a MACRO 75-210 zoom lens and doubler- 400mm max.). I am not familiar with the camera because Larry, my husband, always comes along and takes the pictures, but I decided today is the day I will learn to use this camera. When I got back out to that spot it took me about five minutes to find the bird again. This time it was in a tall tree on the hill beside the original site. I climbed the hill, spent ten to twenty minutes fumbling with the camera, just figured out finally how to use it and the bird flew down to the pasture. I spent ten minutes searching for

the bird again before I found it. I took many pictures and got to within twenty feet of the bird.

I watched it for a while, then decided I had better call someone because it had stayed so long already maybe someone else could get to see it. I made some calls, ran back out and found the bird. Watched for a while—ran back and made some more calls. Ran back out and spotted the bird. (In case it isn't obvious by now, this bird was just behind my house.) By evening I was slightly hysterical because the bird had been here so long and no one else saw it.

25 October 1991. At 0700 h. Deuane Hoffman pulled in. We went out as it got light to search for the bird. We spotted it at 0900 h. It was approachable and easy to watch if you stayed 20 to 30 feet away. We watched it for a while then Deuane called Barb and Frank Haas to let them know it was still here. Deuane took several pictures with our camera. When the Haases arrived about 1330 h., Frank took several pictures using a Minolta SRT 101 camera through a Questar. They all left after about an hour.

Larry came home from work. He was out there at the same time the peach spotting on the breast was quite evident and got more photographs. Bob Ross arrived about 1730 h. While we were watching the bird at 1750 h. an American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) flew through and the bird took off. We saw it land on a tall elm tree, while the kestrel went in a different direction. Then the flycatcher went down and wasn't seen again.

We had many disappointed birders here on 26 and 27 October. I have been out every day since then and have not seen it. This is the first documented sighting of a Vermillion Flycatcher in Pennsylvania.

RD 2, Box 187
Millerton, PA 16936

Typed from Arlene
Brown's handwritten
submission (on file).
B. Haas

Record No.: 543-01-1991

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Vermillion Flycatcher**

Date of Sighting: **24 October 1991 to 25 October 1991**

Observer(s): **Frank & Barb Haas**

Date of Submission: **1991**

Submitted by: **Frank & Barb Haas**

| Member | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV | Class V | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|---|---|
| | | | | | A | B | C |
| E. Kwater | X | | | | | | |
| B. Haas | X | | | | | | |
| F. Haas | X | | | | | | |
| R. Leberman | X | | | | | | |
| G. McWilliams | X | | | | | | |
| S. Santner | X | | | | | | |
| P. Schwalbe | X | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 7 | | | | | | |
| DECISION | X | | | | | | |

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Barb Haas

Date:

3/7/92