

August 26, 2005

Phil Keener

Thank you for submitting the description of the Vermilion Flycatcher seen on May 10, 2003 at SGL 242 in Washington Township. The report was unanimously voted as **Class IV-A: A** record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer's identification; the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt.

This observation was brief, partial, and at times in poor lighting. This was the main reason it was voted IV-A. For a species so rarely reported in the state (and the eastern US) a description of the entire bird is needed.

Thanks again for sending in the description.

Sincerely

Matt Sharp
Chair: Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

RARE BIRD REPORT 543-01-2003

Species: VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*PROCEPHALUS RUBINUS*) Date of this Observation: MAY 10, 2003

Date Found: MAY 10, 2003 Last Date Seen: MAY 10, 2003

Location: STATE GAME LANDS 242

Township/City: WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP County: YORK

Person Writing this report: PHIL KEENER

Address: 198 JACOB STREET,
EAST BERLIN, PA 17316

Phone: 717-259-9984

Other Observers: NONE

Who found the bird first: MYSELF

Other documentation included: (Circle all appropriate items) (Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

Photograph

Audio Recording

Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored?

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed—Please do not write on back of this form)

I WAS BIRDING ALONE FOR THE NAMC AT SGL 242 ON SAT AM, 5/10 AT 7⁴⁰. I WAS BUSY TRYING TO COUNT A SMALL FLOCK OF BLUE WINGED WARBLERS ALONG WITH NOBLE BUNTINGS IN TRANSITIONARY UNDERGROWTH FROM A MUSTARD / GRASS FIELD TO A NARROW TREE LINE. ~~THE~~ I WAS COUNTING WITHOUT THE USE OF BINOCULARS WHEN I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE BIRD OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE. ESTABLISHING 12⁰⁰ O'CLOCK AS MY POSITION, THE BIRD WAS FACING ~ 1⁰⁰ O'CLOCK. IT WAS IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION ABOUT 15 FEET UP IN A SMALL TREE, ABOUT 30-40 FEET FROM ME. WITH THIS GLIMPSE, BASED ON JIZZ, I SAID TO MYSELF VERMILION FLYCATCHER ALTHOUGH MY ONLY EXPERIENCE WITH THEM IS IN THE BIRD BOOKS. THE SIZE (SMALLER), SHAPE (LESS ROUND HEAD AND BODY, NOT HARD LINES BUT AWAY FROM ROUND), COLOR (NOT AS DEEP RED, WITH A HINT OF RANGE, AGREEING WITH SHADE IN PETERSON'S), AND UNCLEAR RED HEAD TOOK ME AWAY FROM THE ^{EXPECTED} SCARLET Tanager. LIGHTING WAS GOOD FOR THIS ~~THE~~ SPLIT SECOND PART OF THE EXPERIENCE AS SUN WAS BEGINNING TO BREAK THRU THE OVERCAST SKY / FOG AND COMING OVER MY BACK, BIRD WAS IN DIRECT LIGHTING.

BY THE TIME I GOT THE BINOCULARS (NIKON 8x40, SECRET II) UP THE BIRD WAS FLYING AWAY IN DIRECT, NON-UNDULATING FLIGHT. HE DID STOP BRIEFLY AND NERVOUSLY FLITTED IN A MULTI-BRANCHED TREE BUT AT THAT POINT I WAS ONLY GETTING AN IMAGE OF BLACK/BLACK-BROWN AND RED. THE DISTANCE WAS ~ 100 FEET. IN THIS SHADED LIGHTING THE RED TOOK ON A DEEPER COLOR AND CLOSELY RESEMBLED THE COLOR OF THIS BIRD DEPICTED IN THE NAT'L GEO BIRDS OF NA, 1ST EDITION.

IN REVIEWING FIELD GUIDES FURTHER, IT WAS NOT AN ORANGE VARIANT SCARLET Tanager, NOR DID IT AGREE WITH ANY SCARLET Tanager MOLTS DEPICTED IN SIBLEY'S "BIRDING

543-01-2003

I ALSO CONSIDERED THE CRICLES BUT IT WAS TOO RED,
WASNT HOOVED IN BLACK AND SEEMED TOO SMALL.

I WENT BACK AT 12:30 IN THE AFTERNOON AND COULDN'T
FIND THE BIRD. SUNDAY AM, MAY 11, RANDY PHILLIPS, NAME
COMPILER FOR YORK COUNTY, ~~AND~~ AND I REVISITED THE SPOT
AROUND 8⁴⁰ AM BUT DID NOT FIND THE BIRD. HOWEVER, RANDY
DID IDENTIFY A SINGING SCARLET Tanager IN NEARBY WOODS.

THIS BIRD DIDNT VOCALIZE. I REVIEWED ALL THE BOOKS
I HAVE THAT DEPict OR MENTION VERMILION FLYCATCHERS AND,
UNFORTUNATELY, I CANT POSITIVELY SAY I PICKED UP ON THE
OTHER FIELD MARKS SUCH AS BROWN BACK OR EVIDENCE OF WING
BARS. I KEEP COMING BACK TO MY INITIAL IMPRESSION ~~AND~~ AND
MY CERTAINTY THAT THE BIRD ^{DID} NOT HAVE A CLEAN RED HEAD.
I HAVE NO OTHER DOCUMENTATION OR THE BENEFIT OF ANOTHER
OBSERVER. THE EXPERIENCE LASTED 8-10 SECONDS AT THE MOST
WITH FLEETING GLIMPSES. THE UNUSUAL WEATHER PATTERS COULD
POSSIBLY ACCOUNT FOR THIS BIRDS WANDERING.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

PHIL KEENER

Ⓜ MAY 17, 2003

PS I AM ALSO ENCLOSEING A CL OF THE PA BIRDS
LIST POSTING I DID ON SUN, MAY 11

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

Date of Sighting: 10 May 2003 to 10 May 2003

Location: SGL 242, WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP

County: YORK

Observer(s): Phil Keener

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Phil Keener

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

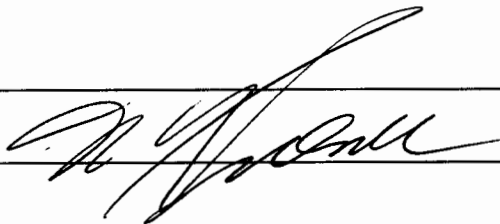
Specimen: No

Recording: NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead				X				
D. Heathcote					X			
P. Guris					X			
J. Stanley					X			
E. Witmer				X				
R. Leberman								
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS				3	3			
DECISION				X				

Comments: 0/6

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

4/1/04