





**PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM**

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania.

Send documentation to:

**Nick Pulcinella, Secretary**  
**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**  
**613 Howard Ave.**  
**West Chester, PA 19380**  
**nickpulcinella@verizon.net**

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**SPECIES** (common and scientific name) Ash-throated flycatcher  
**Subspecies** (if known)

**NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS** 1 **SEX(ES)** ?

**AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S)** (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable):

**DATE OF OBSERVATION** November 20, 2009 2-4 pm and November 22 1pm to 2 pm

**LOCATION** (city, borough, township) SGL 145 West Cornwall TWP

**EXACT SITE** (e.g. name of park, lake, road) General Biddle Road a gated jeep trail off of Pinch Road.

**OBSERVER REPORTING:**

**Name** Chuck Berthoud

**Address** 47 Brookside Ave. City Hershey\_ State PA\_ ZIP 17033

**e-mail** (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ **phone** (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER OBSERVERS** (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

Randy Miller, Jason Horn, Dave Wilton, Larry Usselman, Jarrod Derr

**HABITAT** (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Forrest along jeep trail with woody bushes along the trail. I found the bird on November 20 in a forest clearing of about an acre in size with goldenrod.

**DISTANCE TO BIRD** 25 to 100 feet

**VIEWING CONDITIONS** (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Very good conditions with temperatures above 50 degrees, partly sunny and found in multiple directions with respect to the sun.

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED** 8x42 binoculars and 20x spotting scope

**DESCRIPTION** (Include as much detail as you observed – size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

Myiarcus flycatcher similar to the common great-crowned flycatcher that breeds throughout the state. Physical differences to the GCFL were: 1). Dull yellow belly. 2). Darker bill. 3). White throat. 4). Dark tail-tip on the underside, photo by Larry Usselman below.





(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

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

Unlike GCFL that is usually found in mid to high elevations this bird was successfully feeding on large insects at about eye level to the ground. I generally perched in the brush or goldenrod. Its feeding style was similar to other flycatchers by flying from its perch, catching prey and landing near by but not at the same location.

**VOCALIZATIONS**

I did not hear any but others heard calls that were not those of GCFL

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:**

Photograph  Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name :Larry Usselman [elgrans@gmail.com] \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

(optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written

documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

**IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:**

General condition \_\_\_\_\_

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)**

**State Gamelands #145, Lebanon County  
November 25, 2009**

This bird was discovered nearly a week before I took a trip to see it. It spent time foraging in a regenerating clear cut along a dirt road in State Gamelands #145. The vegetation in the clear cut consisted of herbaceous vegetation and a few shrubs and small trees. The surrounding habitat was deciduous forest.

The bird would perch for short periods on low vegetation and shrubs in the clear cut. Then it would dive towards the ground or fly across the area, sometimes landing out of sight only to return a short time later. It was successfully catching insects despite the cool, rainy and foggy conditions on the day I saw it. While it was perched I had numerous views through a Leica spotting scope with a 20 – 60X zoom eyepiece. I was able to observe the underside of the tail and note the pattern of dark brown/black and rufous.

A digiscoped photograph and my sketches of the underside of the tail are included with this description. The photograph is poor due to the lighting conditions.

**DESCRIPTION**

An obvious *Myiarchus* flycatcher with a gray face and breast, yellowish belly, rufous and blackish / brown tail, rufous in the primaries and two dull white wingbars. Exhibited the large head with the peak at the rear of the crown imparting a slightly crested appearance like other members of this group.

Bill, legs and feet black. Bill appeared proportionally small, but admittedly this is subjective on a lone bird.

Crown, nape and back brownish / olive. Crown slightly darker than nape.

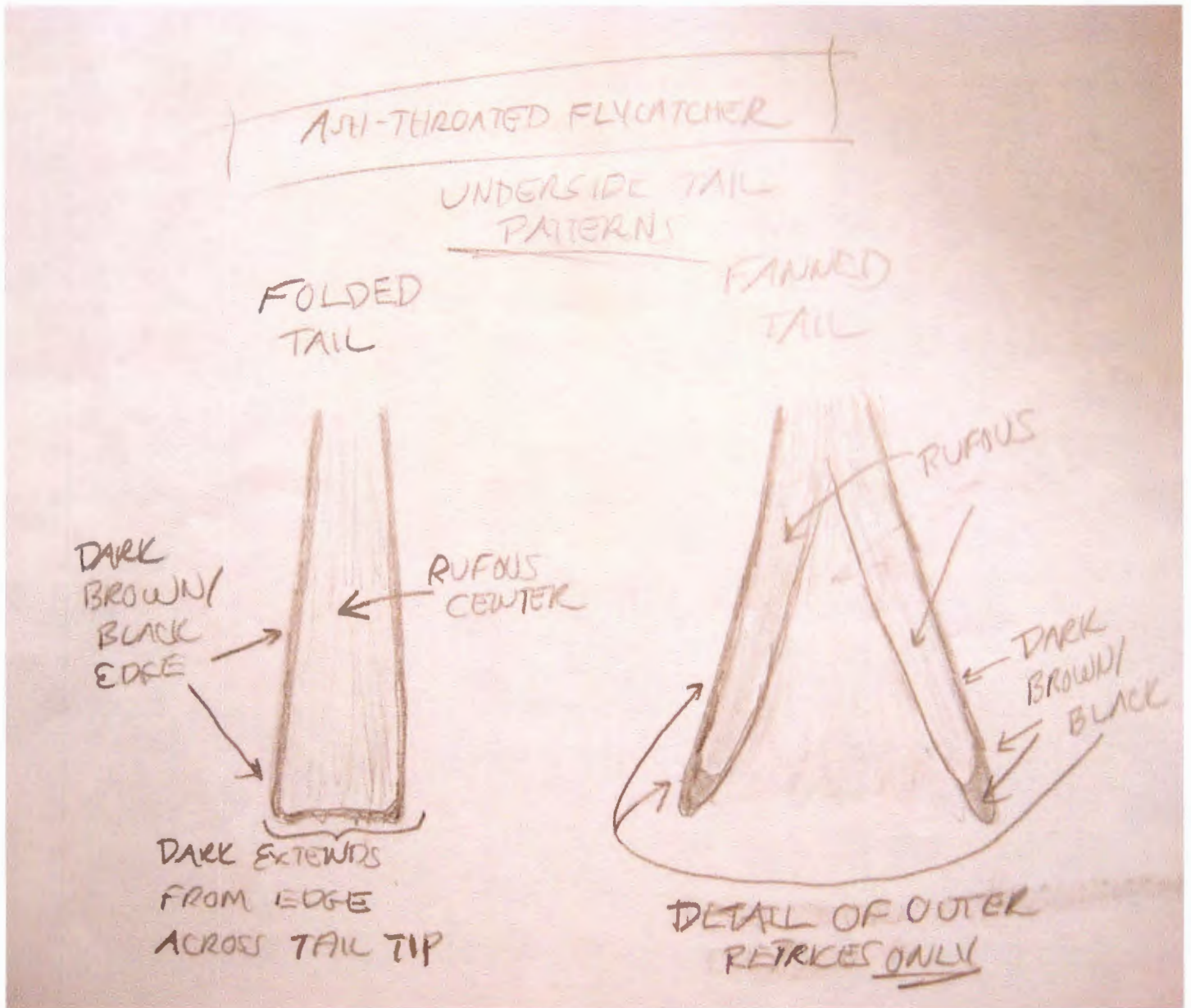
Throat, face and upper breast dull gray; lower breast, sides, belly and undertail coverts very dull yellow.

Wings brownish with rufous primaries; two dull white wingbars; tertials edged dull white.

Tail appeared mainly brown above with some rufous visible depending upon the bird's position. Since it was wet, the bird would often perch with the tail spread.

The underside of the tail showed the diagnostic rufous center with dark brownish / black edges joined by the dark brownish / black tail tip. When the tail was spread, the pattern of the outer retrices were visible showing the dark color "wrapping around" the tip of the feather as illustrated in the accompanying sketch.





Sketches of the underside tail patterns I observed in the field showing the folded tail on the left and on the right, the outer retrices observed when the bird perched with its tail spread.

Submitted by: Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
 mpfial@verizon.net

Written 21 Nov. 2009  
Randy C. Miller  
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1st Lebanon Co. record  
4th state record for PA  
found from 20 to 28 Nov. 2009  
\*\*\*\* (Myiarchus cinerascens)

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Ash-throated Flycatcher  
Subspecies, if known none

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) both look the same

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): adult plumage

DATE OF OBSERVATION 20 Nov. 2009 TIME 9:15am to 10:30am and 2pm to 4pm

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Mt. Gretna South Londonderry Township  
south of Mt. Gretna borough

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) east side of SGL 145 - on Gen. Biddle Road, about 1/4 mile north of Lancaster + Lebanon Co. border in Lebanon County, 100 to 300 yards past gate at parking lot off Pinch Road.

OBSERVER REPORTING:  
Name Randy C. Miller  
Address 607 Woodland Dr.  
City Manheim State PA ZIP 17545-9553  
e-mail (optional) birdera@dejazz.com phone (optional) (717) 664-3778

evening - Chuck Berthoud

- OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): Sid Hestetter  
(Mandy Pennypacker heard call note) \*Bob Snyder - photos \* saved my day  
different from Great-crested Flycatcher) \*beginner birder\*

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) First seen near multi-floral Rose along stoned dirt road. A lot of dead grasses along the road Woodlands on north side and 3 year old clear cut on south side. In afternoon seen

DISTANCE TO BIRD 30 yards to 75 yards  
10 ft on 21 Nov. 2009 in small field with dead Goldenrod and 3 Apple trees.

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) sun to back  
am - had to move for better light - clouds 30% - wind  
5-15 mph - N.West

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED 10x42 Nikon and 20x60 Kowa

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): Size - approx. 8" overall - Bill thin and medium length - upper mandible black, lower mandible black with small flesh base. bigger than Dark-eyed Juncos in flock - Eye - all black  
Call - soft "pryt" - Drew Weber forwarded me winter call note that I did not have, matched call note from this flycatcher - single note when first seen we noticed how pale it was on the underside.  
was feeding low 3 ft to ground looking for crickets, grasshopper, and caught a moth and beat wings off. Maybe male gypsy moth size.  
Throat whitish, breast light gray, belly to undertail coverts pale yellow - wing bars - whiteish - 2 on each wing, easily seen  
Tertials - whitish tipped Rufous in primaries to whitish tipped  
Secondaries, on folded wing over

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

## Ash-throated Flycatcher Cont

Legs - black Undertail - medium length tail with rufous showing with tail folded - Brown on outside of tail to tips to a little across the tip.

Upper tail - brownish grey with very light brown borders.

Back and upper tail coverts - brownish-grey.

Below eye and side of neck - light grey

no eye ring

head - brownish-grey - with crest above eye

mouth - inside - not seen well

Experience - seen in Arizona in 1995 - Also in PA in 1997 in Northampton Co and in 2000 at Safe Harbor, Lancaster Co.

other species - Great-crested Flycatcher - brighter overall, also has wheep call. - heavier bill

Brown-crest Flycatcher - heavier bill, call note different, sharp "whit" - more yellow on underside, belly to undertail coverts

Nutting's Flycatcher - yellowish belly, darker olive and undertail coverts, brown above - call sharp "wheep" bill - slightly shorter

When this flycatcher flew the rufous in the primaries and in the spread tail was seen easily. This flycatcher was seen a lot from 10 ft to 3 ft off the ground feeding also.

I have seen Ash-throated Flycatchers in Arizona in 1995 and also in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

I saw the Ash-throated Flycatcher in Northampton Co. in November 1997 and Safe Harbor, Lancaster Co. in December 2000.

Photo from Drew Weber and Mike McKinne sent to Nick Pulcinella on 2 Dec 2009



## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*

Date of Sighting: 20 November 2009 to 28 November 2009

County : LEBANON

Location : MT. GRETNA

Observer(s): Sid Hostetter , m.obs

Date of Submission: 2009

Submitted by: C.Berthoud, M.Fialkovich, G. Malosh, B. Moul, M.McKinne, D.Weber, J.Davis

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
R. Wiltraut	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
C. Rutt	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/10/10