

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-11-18 13:45:48
Observer's Name	Pamela Fisher
E-mail	goldeagle_60@yahoo.com
Phone	717-330-7044
Observer's Address	761 Willow Lane Gap Pennsylvania 17527 United States
Names of additional observers	Bob Schutsky, Mike Shull, Tom Amico, Eric Witmer, John Baird
Species (Common Name)	Tropical Kingbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus melancholicus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	11-17-2016 2:20 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/pa/view/checklist/S32605876
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Peach Bottom
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Conowingo Pond
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.749323, -76.226758
Habitat	Mixed habitat of woods, river, and scrub.
Distance to bird	60 yards
Viewing conditions	Sunny. However, depending on where the bird was, it was sometimes backlit. Other times, the sun shone right on it.
Optical equipment used	Bushnell 10x43 Binoculars
Description	Bright yellow chest and belly, whitish throat, gray head with a light nape. Long, heavy black bill. The back appeared to greenish-gray, the wings gray with light colored streaks in them. The tail was brown, and notched.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	It would fly from tree to tree, usually along the river, but occasionally going inland. It called several times. It was basically staying along the river, going upstream, then downstream.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Notched tail, no white outer tail feathers, and the call ruled out Western, and Couch's Kingbird. The yellow chest ruled out Cassin's Kingbird.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

The bird was originally identified as a Western Kingbird, but when the call was heard, it was identified as a Tropical Kingbird.

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

Yes. There were many expert birders there, and they taught me the difference between this bird and the similar species.

During

Unknown App

After

Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of the United States, Petersons Field Guide to the Birds of the US

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph
Video



[DSCN8045.JPG](#)

[DSCN8047.MOV](#)



[DSCN8054.JPG](#)
[DSCN8057.MOV](#)



[DSCN8056.JPG](#)

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-11-19 16:03:40
Observer's Name	Todd Watkins
E-mail	toddawatkins@gmail.com
Phone	610.967.3872
Observer's Address	56 W Market St #6 BETHLEHEM PA 18018 United States
Names of additional observers	MOBS
Species (Common Name)	Tropical Kingbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus melancholicus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	11-19-2016 8:40 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32616564
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Peach Bottom, Lancaster Co. PA
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	287 Riverview Rd.
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.7505385,-76.2173764
Habitat	Agricultural, Cornfield. Overhead power wires.
Distance to bird	Various. 50-100 ft.
Viewing conditions	Clear, crisp, morning sun behind
Optical equipment used	Nikon Fieldview 60 ED spotting scope; Leica 8x32
Description	Previously identified bird, first found nearby; refound along Riverview Road. Clear Tyrannus ssp. Bright yellow breast, rises farther up breast than typical for Western Flycatcher. White throat, gray crown & forehead. Darker gray lore and behind eye. Mantle olive washed gray. Tail dark brown, not black and lacks obvious white outer vane of Western. Color of wings match color of tail. light edging to full length of tail feathers, also white edges along primaries and secondaries. Tail slightly but obviously forked. Relatively heavy bill, but in field did not appear heavy as looked in Sibley's. Did not vocalize while I observed; however distinguished from Couch's Flycatcher by call, earlier by other observers.

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

Actively feeding; perching on power wires and nearby barbed wire fencing. Flying up and down to corn field stubble, occasionally catching grasshoppers etc.. Sometimes perched on corn stalks.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Most obvious possibilities are Western Flycatcher or Couch's. Western easier to rule out. Yellow on breast farther up breast than typical for Western Flycatcher. Tail dark brown, not black and lacks obvious white outer vane of Western. Color of wings match color of tail, rather than the darker tail of Western. Light edging to full length of tail feathers, unlike typical on Western. Tail more obviously notched than Western. Relatively heavy bill, though if field impression was not as big a difference as shown in Sibley's.

Couch's Kingbird harder to eliminate. Unfortunately, did not vocalize while I observed; however distinguished from Couch's Flycatcher by call earlier in morning and previous day by other observers, including Jason Horn. Several made recordings; hopefully they'll submit to PORC. Suggestive of Tropical rather than Couch's, however, is the gap between tips of folded secondaries to wingtips appear (in photos attached) short compared to photos of Couch's online and in Birdseye, and certainly compared to long gap in Western.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Since did not hear vocalization to diagnostically rule out Couch's, mainly filing this to provide photos. Hopefully others will submit recordings. Several folks said they had recorded it earlier in the morning.

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

Yes, except for possible Couch's; for that need vocal ID of others.

During

Sibley's; Birdseye App

After

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/kingbirdsX.htm>

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph



[DSCN4149.JPG](#)



[DSCN4190a.JPG](#)



[DSCN4198a.JPG](#)

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-11-19 22:54:02
Observer's Name	Jerald Reb
E-mail	jrebelboy@gmail.com
Observer's Address	United States
Species (Common Name)	Tropical Kingbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus Melancholicus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	11-19-2016 3:10 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32624862
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Peach Bottom
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	280 Riverview Rd.
GPS coordinates of sighting	39°44'56.5"N 76°13'12.7"W
Habitat	Open field. Small woody area nearby.
Distance to bird	200-300 yards
Viewing conditions	Distance and glare made viewing difficult.
Optical equipment used	Alpen spotting scope on 15x magnification
Description	Larger than nearby bluebirds. Long tail, yellow underparts, gray head. Unable to separate from other yellow-breasted kingbirds with the looks I had, but others have obtained photos.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Flycatching, changed perches several times, but usually ended up back at the wire. Appeared to be bobbing tail, but I'm not sure given the distance and glare.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Head lighter than Cassin's, lacking strong contrast between head and throat. I believe the gray in Western Kingbird extends further down the breast, though I could be wrong on that. I believe I heard the bird vocalize, which would rule out the very different sounding Couch's (I am familiar with the vocalizations of Tropical, Western, and Couch's).
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	I am almost certain that I heard the bird. I heard a definite Tropical Kingbird call which sounded like it was coming from the center of the field (near where we saw the bird a few minutes later), but I can't say with absolute certainty that none of the 20 or so other birders present was using playback at that time.

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

Yes, I am. While the bird was distant, it certainly appeared to be a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird. If the vocalization I heard was the bird as I suspect, and not a recording, than that would clinch the ID.

After

Crossley ID guide, Sibley

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[IMG_4787 - Copy.JPG](#)

Click to edit

PORC-webform00362

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-11-20 10:28:15
Observer's Name	Alan Archambault
E-mail	BottomlandMud@outlook.com
Phone	717-724-9284
Observer's Address	527 Walnut Street Lemoyne PA 17043 United States
Species (Common Name)	Tropical Kingbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus melancholicus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	11-19-2016 4:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Peach Bottom
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Peach Bottom Boat Launch
Habitat	Riparian/Woodland
Distance to bird	40' (?)
Viewing conditions	Storm front coming in
Optical equipment used	Sony DSC-H300
Description	Typical Kingbird appearance, yellow belly, thicker looking bill than Western.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Typical flycatcher behavior, flitting around along high tree top perches, before flying down to a utility wire, and then into this tree. It appeared to be hawking insects and was briefly calling (as can be seen and heard in video) before dipping down into brush along shoreline where it could not be located afterwards, in part due to strong winds and storm front coming in.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Mostly due to other more experienced birders reports. Bird was identified by much more experienced birders while I was there as well. Calls do sound like that of Tropical Kingbird compared to Western, though I don't have much experience with either species, none with the Tropical Kingbird outside of this.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Bird (which had been reported and was identified by other birders) was flying in typical flycatcher fashion from tree to tree and started to call. I stopped taking stills and took this video. Sorry for noisy breathing, that's me, the phone ringing is from the person standing next to me. I didn't catch his name. This bird was witnessed by a number of other birders at this day and time, I just don't know any of their names.

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

Pretty sure, other more experienced birders had identified the bird, calls sound like recordings I have heard of this species. I have no experience with this species prior.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Video

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[00008.MTS](#)

Click to edit

PORC-webform00363

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-07-17 20:33:40
Observer's Name	Zachary Millen
E-mail	zjmillen@gmail.com
Phone	7177231279
Observer's Address	101 Bridle Path New Holland PA 17557 United States
Names of additional observers	Zachary Millen, Nick Polini
Species (Common Name)	Tropical Kingbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus melancholicus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	11-19-2016 8:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S32619194
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Peach Bottom
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Riverview Rd
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.7507106,-76.2175173
Habitat	Open farm fields
Description	Photo
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Hawking and diving to the ground for insects and spiders. Used a variety of perches including strung electric/cable wires, barbed wire, and a tree in a neighboring backyard. It would visit this area during the day to feed and return to the riverside location to spend the night.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Jason Horn previously correctly identified this bird as a Tropical Kingbird by hearing vocalizations. Unfortunately I never heard this bird myself.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

I had just left this bird down on Peach Bottom Rd at Bob Schutsky's. The previous several days it was really only seen in the morning and evening if I recall correctly. Nick and I were headed to go birding elsewhere when we stumbled on it sitting on the wire along this road at 0830. This location came to be the more reliable spot to observe the bird.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[40344191.png](#)

Click to edit

PORC-webform00007