

CCG FyB.
HAAJ

October 18, 1989

Memo to: David A. Cutler, American Birds
Jerry Pasquarella, Chester County Compiler,
Pennsylvania Birds
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

From: J. Eric Witmer

Subject: Sighting of Western Kingbirds in Chester County,
Pennsylvania

On Thursday, October 12, 1989, at about 3:45 p.m., while leaving the premises of Tel Hai Retirement Community along Beaver Dam Road, near Honeybrook, Chester County, Pennsylvania, I noticed two (2) smallish birds on utility wires about 100 yards to the east. I immediately stopped my company vehicle and hopped out with my binoculars (9 x 36 Bushnell Customs). Much to my amazement, the birds had pale yellow underparts, an all dark tail and wings, with a grayish upper breast, throat, head, and upper back. The bill was medium sized and all dark. I recognized the birds as Western Kingbirds, which I am familiar with from the West, Florida in winter, and occasionally, Cape May, New Jersey, in the fall. I approached the birds to about 30 yards. At this point, I noted the white-edged outer tail feathers. The yellow underparts were slightly lighter than I expected, but continued through the undertail coverts. The legs and eyes were dark. The birds were seen flying around the utility wires in "short fluttery kingbird-like fashion."

The area in which the birds were observed was along the edge of a residential area with lawns and occasional trees, bordered by an agricultural grazing meadow with a small wet pool/puddle and some random bushes, with utility poles/wires running along with the border.

The birds were searched for on Friday, October 13, and one was found at 8:45 a.m. by Larry Lewis, Grier Saunders, and Barb Haas. From my knowledge, the bird(s) were not found after this, with many birders searching later in the day and again on Saturday, October 14.

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pw

Record No.: 557-01-1989

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # / of

Species: *Western Kingbird*

Date of Sighting: *10-12-89*

Observer(s): *Eric Witmer*

Date of Submission: *1989*

Submitted by: *Eric Witmer*

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		4	3				

DECISION

Accepted Class II

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Bm Haas

Date:

3-1-90