



557-01-1999

Western Kingbird
Edgmont Twp. , Delaware Co. , PA
10/1/99

Around 1PM I received word about a Western Kingbird found by John Ginaven about 20 minutes earlier. The bird was found behind the Regal Cinema on RT3 in Edgmont Twp. I was able to get to the location within 15 minutes. I searched the area together with Al Guarente. A bird was spotted darting out of the top of a dead snag and returning to it. From a distance the bright yellow belly was apparent and we made our way over to the tree. We had a long leisurely study - 30-45 minutes - of the bird with a 30x scope and binos from a distance of about 30 yds. The bird's behavior was typical of a flycatcher - it would make several attempts at catching flying insects on the wing and then return again to the same perch. We left the bird after it flew to another location further away.

Description - the bird appeared to be a kingbird with a large head, thick flat bill, stout body, medium tail length. The size was larger than an E. Kingbird.

Upperparts - the head , face and nape were gray. The throat was grayish-white. The eye was dark without a dark gray or black eye patch. The back was a dull olive-green. The wings were brownish, the primaries appeared blacker with pale outer edges. The primary coverts were brown with buffy edges. The rest of the coverts were also brown with buffy edges. The tail was dark brown with pale-white edges to the outermost tail feathers. The tail did not appear deeply notched. The pale-white outer edges to the tail feathers was very difficult to see and took us several long studies to finally see them. They seemed to be visible only from an underneath angle. Even when the tail was spread during flight they were not always apparent.

Underparts - the throat was grayish-white. The upper-breast was the same gray color as the head. The rest of the breast and belly were a bright yellow, extending into the undertail coverts.

Bill - medium length for a kingbird, broad based and black.

Legs - black.

Voice - not heard.

Age - I think the presence of the olive-green back color and the large amount of buffy color to the coverts and the pale outer tail feathers leans toward the bird being a juvenile.

Separation from other kingbirds

Eastern Kingbird - the yellow belly eliminates the E. Kingbird.

Cassin's Kingbird - the possibility of Cassin's was in our minds while we observed the bird. I think Cassin's can be ruled out by the lack of a dark gray color to the head, throat and upper breast, lack of a dark eye patch and the presence of the white outer tail feathers.

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Tropical/Couch's Kingbird - we also wanted to eliminate the possibility of these species especially Tropical which has been known to stray outside its range and could quite possibly appear in the northeast. I think this species combo can be ruled out by the presence of the smaller bill, the lack of a prominent green back, notch less tail and the presence of the pale outer tail feathers. If I remember correctly, Tropical/Couch's should also have a dark eye patch.

Thick-billed Kingbird (fall type) - I think this species can be ruled out by the presence of the small bill, bright yellow underparts and gray color to the head.

Gray Kingbird - this species can be ruled out by the presence of the yellow underparts.

Myiarchus Flycatchers - I think this whole group of NA myiarchus can be ruled out by the lack of any rusty-brown tails, brown or brown-green back and different body structure.

GC Flycatcher - by lack of a rusty tail and brown upperparts, throat and breast

AT Flycatcher - lack of pale yellow belly, brown-rusty tail and brown upperparts

Eastern Phoebe - fall "yellow-bellied" birds- ruled out by large size, gray head and white outer tail feathers.

Nick Pulcinella
210 Welcome Ave.
Norwood, PA 19074

557-01-1999

12:45 pm 10/1/79
WESTERN KINGBIRD

NEXT TO REGAL THEATRE
PARKING LOT

EDGEMONT, PA

WATCHED 5 MINUTES

FLEW OVER ME, SAW
CLEARLY LEMON YELLOW
LOWER BREAST + BELLY

DARK TAIL WITH WHITE
OUTER TAIL FEATHERS

PERCHED FOR ABOUT
4 MINUTES

GRAY HEAD, CROWN
BACK + WINGS. DARK

LINE THROUGH EYE.

YELLOW LOWER BREAST
& BELLY.

STILL AROUND AT
3:50 PM

DARK TAIL WITH
WHITE OUTER TAIL
FEATHERS.

BILL LARGE, FLAT
AND WIDE, ALL DARK.

NO VOCALIZATIONS.

USED NIKON 8X40
BINOCULARS.

I AM VERY
FAMILIAR WITH SPECIES
OUT WEST AND IN
NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA
AND FLORIDA.

JOHN H. GINAVEN
1268 DELMAR AVE.
WEST CHESTER, PA
19380

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Western Kingbird (Tyrannus verticalis)

Date of Sighting: 1 October 1999 to 1 October 1999

Location: EDGMONT TOWNSHIP

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): John Ginaven, Al Guarente, Nick Pulcinella

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: John Ginaven, Nick Pulcinella

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

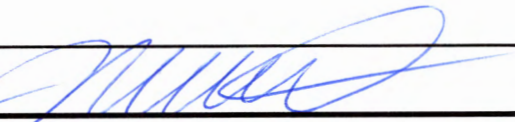
Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Specimen: No			Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. Couchman	X							
P. Hess	X							
R. Ickes		X						
B. Reid	X							
P. Rodewald	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	6	1						
DECISION	X							

Comments:

7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

5/6/01