

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2015-10-12 13:53:54
Observer's Name	Richard Rehrig
E-mail	rrehrig@ptd.net
Phone	610 826-2669
Observer's Address	Street Address: 704 Delaware Avenue City: Palmerton State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 18071 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Barbara Rehrig & Billy Weber
Species (Common Name)	Western Kingbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus Verticalis
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult, sex unknown
Observation Date and Time	10-11-2015 12:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25377863
County	Carbon
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Palmerton, Lower Towamensing Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Boyer Farm Rd.
GPS coordinates of sighting	N 40.825130, W -75.619778
Habitat	Elevated, open hillside farmland with scattered trees and homes
Distance to bird	Originally seen at approx.100 yards, but later seen as close as 25 yards
Viewing conditions	Bright sunny day with clear skys
Optical equipment used	Zeiss 7x42 Binoculars, Zeiss 85FL Diascope and Canon SX50 Camera
Description	<p>Large Flycatcher with a gray back and head, white throat and bright yellow belly. Tail was dark (black) with white along the sides.</p> <p>Pale gray head/throat, yellow belly, brownish wings with pale feather edgings, black tail with white outer edges, relatively small bill. Photos obtained.</p>

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

When first sighted, it was seen perched on the top wire along Boyer Farm Rd. near the top of the hill. We travel this road often and this is where we frequently see Mourning Doves and American Kestrels perched, so I really didn't pay much attention to it. As we got closer it became apparent it was a large Flycatcher (too large for our usual Eastern Phoebe) and as I drove by, I looked up and saw it had a bright yellow belly.

We stopped the car a short distance down the road and got our optics on the bird. That's when we realized we had a Western Kingbird. I took several distant photos with my Canon SX50 at full zoom for ID purposes and called Billy Weber whom we had been birding with earlier at Beltzville State Park.

We watched it hawk insects for about 10 minutes as we waited for Billy Weber to arrive. Although it moved away from us as it hunted and fed it always returning to the top wire in clear sight. Just before Billy arrived, a Kestrel landed near it and the Kingbird flew to the south, across the field and out of sight in the trees below.

When Billy arrived a few minutes later we decided to drive to Hemlock St. which is on the other side of the field it flew across. We parked along Hemlock St. in hopes we could relocate the bird. After only a few minutes, it flew right toward us and landed within 25 yards of us in the top of a large leafless tree, giving us great looks. It continued to chase insects for several minutes from the top of the tree, even while being harassed a bit by several other small birds, including an Eastern Phoebe. I was able to get better photos from this position and so did Billy.

The bird eventually flew across Hemlock St, landed on the top wire about 75 yards to our south and continued to fly from the wire, chasing insects. At approx. 12:45 (DST) it flew south across the field and over a small ridge with large pines and out of sight.

We

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Larger than the Eastern Phoebes presently being seen in our area. Lacked the brown tail and wing color of a Great Crested Flycatcher.

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

Several other birders contacted us to tell us they tried but could not relocate this bird. I checked eBird that evening and saw that another birder was successful in finding it around 5 PM that same day. We returned again on Monday, Oct 12, 2015 to see if we could relocate the bird and found it in almost the exact location it was originally seen, sitting within a few feet of an American Kestrel.

We called Dave Hawk, a local birder who we knew was interested in seeing it. He arrived within a few minutes and was able to get good looks as well. I called Billy Weber and asked him to post it to PABIRDS.

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

Yes, this is a bird we have seen on numerous occasions in our travels to the western states.

During

Sibley's Guide

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-01-09 16:25:17
Observer's Name	Michael David
E-mail	michaeldavid@gmail.com
Phone	4123906773
Observer's Address	Street Address: 7420 Ben Hur St City: Pittsburgh State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15208 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Rick Wiltraut
Species (Common Name)	Western Kingbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus verticalis
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	10-12-2015 3:40 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25399931
County	Carbon
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Palmerton
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Boyer Farm Rd at Hemlock St
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.821498, -75.620290
Habitat	farm fields
Distance to bird	Approx 100 m
Viewing conditions	clear, sunny
Optical equipment used	Swarovski ATX-95 scope
Description	similar in shape and size to Eastern Kingbird. Gray head with slightly darker "mask" through eye. Lighter gray throat and upper breast blending into yellow on belly and undertail. Back gray and wings brownish. Tail black with outer webs of outer rectrices white. Bill fairly small.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Perched on wires, flying out to catch insects in midair.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Cassin's Kingbird has darker face with contrasting white malar and lacks white sides of tail. Tropical and Couch's Kingbird have lighter tail without white sides and noticeably larger bill.

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

Yes - diagnostic photographs.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph



10/11/2015



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