

Rare Bird Documentation for PORC:

Species: Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Number: 1

Sex, age, plumage: Probable adult

Date/time of observation:

10 May, 2003 @ around 18:45

Location:

258 Stone Church Rd., Redstone Township, Fayette County, PA.

Bird was seen flying from the field uphill and across the road to an interior fence post in the farm yard to the east of the main house where it remained for about three minutes looking around. It then flew back across the field.

Observer(s):

Sharon Kanareff

949 Northridge Dr.

Seven Fields, PA 16046

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Habitat: The bird was seen flying across an open field with 3-4" tall plantings. By the following week, when I returned to see whether the bird remained, the plantings were 6-10" tall. The farmyard contained a perimeter fence of posts and wire, along with interior fencing of similar material. The topography slopes away to the east into an area containing a small stream in pasture, to the west is a shed, chicken coop, drive and the house. There is a lightly wooded area (primarily deciduous) to the back of the farmyard.

Conditions: Partially cloudy with sun low in sky, but still above treetops. There was reasonable direct light and the sun was behind and to the west of me during the initial part of the observation. Bird was mostly to my north and east at that time. As it flew back across the field, it was flying into the sun.

Distance:

Bird originally flew in from the south from about 150 feet away, crossed in front of my truck just above eye level about 15 feet in front of me. It landed on a fence post about 25-30 feet away from me where it remained for about three minutes. It then flew again in front of my vehicle slightly higher and back across the field until I lost sight of it at the horizon.

Optical Equipment Used:

Viewed the entire time with Swarovski 10x42 binoculars.

Description:

From my observation notes at the time, "shrike, reasonably small, snubby bill, grey back, dark eye. flying – contrasting darker wings with single white patch, some white on outer tail."

I had been stopped to count Bobolink and Brown-headed Cowbirds in the field and farmyard when it flew in. At first I thought it was a Northern Mockingbird but as it flew closer, I noted that the bird was chunkier and the white in the wing pattern was wrong. When it landed I had a chance to observe eye color (dark) and bill shape (snub with no obvious hook) and I realized it was a shrike. The bird did not call.

Behavior: Bird flew in fairly directly from a mid-point in the field. I did not see the point of origin, but caught the motion in my peripheral vision. It did not seem to be hunting. It flew right into the fence post and landed with its back towards me in a fairly upright posture. It stayed stationary on the post, moving its head from side-to-side. When it flew it dropped quickly toward a spot about 3 feet away, then pulled up and headed straight back across the road and over the field. I lost sight of it at the horizon (which was shortened as it is upslope).

Vocalizations: None

Supporting evidence: None

Separation from Similar Species:

Loggerhead from Northern Shrike: Bill size and shape was smaller and stubbier than for Northern and there was no distinct hook. Mask on this bird was fairly significant. Time of year late for Northern.

Loggerhead from Northern Mockingbird: Single white patch in wing, not a tiered pattern. Dark eye color not yellowish. Bill snubby not long and pointed. Chunkier more compact jizz.

Previous experience: I have seen Loggerhead Shrikes and Northern Mockingbirds together in Texas during February and March and learned to separate them there. Loggerhead Shrikes are regular in Eastern Washington during the summer and I routinely observed them when I lived and worked there. I had the opportunity to see Northern Shrikes regularly on their wintering grounds in Northwestern Washington and Lower Mainland BC, as well as routinely in my backyard in Healy, Alaska during the summer.

Certainty of identification: I am confident in my identification of this bird.

References consulted: I immediately checked the National Geographic and Sibley (East) field guides which I had with me in the vehicle. I checked Peterson and the original Sibley when I returned home later that night.

Date of report: Reported initial observation 14 May, 2003 with Fayette County NAMC results. Wrote up initial observation 11 May, 2003. Revisited site on 19 May, 2003 to attempt to relocate bird and confirm street address. Report completed and sent to PORC 23 May, 2003.

Signature of observer:

 23 May 2003

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round Two

Species: Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Date of Sighting: 10 May 2003 to 10 May 2003

Location: REDSTONE TOWNSHIP

County : FAYETTE

Observer(s): Sharon Kanareff

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Sharon Kanareff

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Video: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
W. Armstrong RUMINT			X					
D. Heathcote				X				
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

9/16/09

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus)

Date of Sighting: 10 May 2003 to 10 May 2003

Location: REDSTONE TOWNSHIP

County : FAYETTE

Observer(s): Sharon Kanareff

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Sharon Kanareff

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead			X					
D. Heathcote				X	X			
P. Guris				X				
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman								
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			4	2				
DECISION								

Comments: 4/2 GO TO 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

11/10/04