



Townsend's Solitaire**Age/Sex:** 1 Adult**Date/Location:** 3/4/2008. Sinnemahoning State Park, Forty Maples Area, 41.44800N/ -078.04711W**Observer:** Mark Johnson, 72 Mason Grove, Driftwood, PA, 814-546-2886 15832kathyandmarkj@yahoo.com**Habitat:** White Spruce plantation with mowed edges, Multiflora Rose, Hawthorns**Distance to bird:** close as 20'**Weather:** pouring rain**Optics:** Swarovski SLC, 10x50

The bird was originally found on Sunday, 3/2/08, by Lewis Crowell of East Aurora, NY. Lew is an old friend of mine and a very experienced, lifelong birder. He and his wife had been birding Sinn. State Park on that Sunday afternoon. On Monday, 3/3/08 he e-mailed me and said that he had found a Townsend's and told me where. He said that he had very good looks at the bird. On Tuesday, 3/4/08, I left work in the late morning to search for the bird. As soon as I got to Forty Maples area I found it. It was raining, hard. I watched and followed the bird for at least a half hour and got very close looks. The bird stayed by itself although there were dozens of Robins working the same hawthorne and Multiflora Rose. It was quite active, moving from tree to tree. Often it would perch on one of the hundreds of White Spruce, always at the highest perch. Then back to the hawthornes. I saw good looks at the bold eyering and the buffy wing patches. A long-tailed, Catbird sized, slender, gray bird. It sat rather upright and the bill reminded me of a bluebird's, in size. Proportionately, very small. The bird was fairly tame and slow moving. Not lethargic, but quite deliberate. The flight was sort of fluttery and swooping, combined. Not unlike a Blue Jay working in and out of a feeding station. I am 100% sure of this birds identity. I took a couple of photos with an old Nikon point and shoot through my binoculars, with not much luck. Remember, it was raining the whole time. I

then went to get the park manager, Lisa Baine, also a birder I brought her back to the site and we never re-found the bird. I tried for a couple of days with no luck. I will try to attach at least 1 photo. If unsuccessful I will send seperately.

Positive of ID?: 100% Posture and shape was distinctive. Also had good looks at colors and field marks.

Previous experience with species: A few, years ago, in the Rockies. Also I saw the McKean Co. bird the year before.

Date of report: 2012-03-13.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Townsend's Solitaire Myadestes townsendi

Date of Sighting: 2 March 2008 to 4 March 2008

County : POTTER

Location : SINNEMAHONING STATE PARK

Observer(s): Lewis Crowell, Mark Johnson

Date of Submission: 2012

Submitted by: Mark Johnson

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No Recording: No

Votes / Comments:

Mike Fialkovich **Class I Diagnostic Photograph**

Cameron Rutt **Class I Diagnostic Photograph**

The notes describing the bird as seen in the field were a useful supplement to the rather marginal photo, which is more useful for overall structure than plumage features.

Mike Lanzone **Class I Diagnostic Photograph**

Drew Weber **Class I Diagnostic Photograph**

Body color and proportions, particularly long tail rule out other possibilities I can think of.

Ben Coulter **Class I Diagnostic Photograph**

Dave DeReamus **Class I Diagnostic Photograph**

The combination of the photo and the written description confirm this identification.

Devich Farbotnik **Class I Diagnostic Photograph**

Vote Totals: Class I P - 7

Decision: Accepted

Signature (Secretary) Janet Getgood

Date: 10/7/2012