

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2014-01-29 16:40:53
Observer's Name	adam hinchberger
E-mail	ahinchberger72@gmail.com
Phone	7242855107
Observer's Address	Street Address: 109 green manor dr City: butler State / Province: pa Postal / Zip Code: 16002 Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	townsend solitaire
Species (Scientific Name)	myadestes townsendi
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	01-29-2014 4:20 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	butler
Location (City, Borough, Township)	summit twp
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	109 green manor dr GPS Location: 40.820175,-79.87048
Habitat	open yard
Distance to bird	5-10 ft
Viewing conditions	clear cold day, sunny
Description	Bird was flying from tree next to house to melting icicle to get a drink. Bird had feathers puffed out due to temperatures in the negatives. Was very close to bird and was able to rule out mocking bird and catbird. Also noted long tail with white on either side when it flew away. Noticed white bars on wings, white eye rings and slight dark bars across eyes to beak. Was about the size of a robin.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was drinking from a melting icicle from house gutter, and flying to a tree about 5-7 ft from my location inside house. I attempted to get a photo and bird flew away to nearby tree about 40ft away. Bird also tended to flick tail and look between feet. Also noticed water dripping from beak to verify it indeed had been drinking from dripping icicle.
Separation from similar species	Lighter and no dark cap on top like catbird. Had white eye

(How you eliminated others)

rings and slight dark bars across eyes to beak. Also rather the size of a robin.

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

Note I live near two prominent tree nurseries one of which grows alot of junipers. This occurred to me after doing research on bird and consulting with my father about sighting.

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

yes. one of first times when i looked up in peterson guide, virtually everything i saw matched townsend solitaire

During

peterson field guide of eastern birds. (no range map in book to consult,however) only picture and brief description

After

my father, nursery owner and avid outdoorsman Charles Hinchberger

Click to edit

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Note, for reference, Drew's correspondence with the observer, which he forwarded to PABirds listserv.

"I was emailed the following to post by Adam Hinchberger to post since he isn't on the listserv. You can contact him directly if you are able to go look for the bird.

His email: ahinchberger72@gmail.com

Yesterday as I was watching tv I saw a bird fluttering outside the window.
> What I saw was a cross between a phoebe and a mocking bird. I made mental
> note of characteristics (slight eye bar, fluffy side feathers, about the
> size of a robin, and white eye rings) as I was no more then 7ft from the
> bird. I immediately went to my bird book and came to one conclusion:
> townsend solitaire. I had never heard of this bird outside my book so I
> looked at the range map and did some research and saw it is rarely this far
> east. I live in butler, pennsylvania, summit twp. I wondered what the bird
> was doing fluttering outside the window, when I glanced up and saw a
> melting icicle, and remembered seeing water dripping from the birds mouth,
> imput two and two together. It is VERY COLD here (when I woke up the
> temperature was -10). The bird was drinking from the melting icicle. Very
> cool. I MAY have seen the bird again later that evening, though it was a
> flying glance. If it was, it may be hanging around for a little. If anyone
> would want to try and take pictures feel free to contact me.

Good birding,
Drew Weber
drewweber@gmail.com
484.269.6009"

Then, (according to the PABirds archives) the next day David Yeany II visited the observer and tried for the bird around the same property.

"I had an opportunity to meet with Adam Hinchberger and search for the possible Townsend's Solitaire that he reported seeing two days ago at a family residence in Butler County. As Adam reported, he saw the bird fairly close by his window drinking water droplet from melting ice. Nearby on the property there are good sources of berries from American holly, Baltic ivy, and junipers. Adam's family's nursery specializes in holly and an adjacent property, as well as nearby Heasley's Nursery, specializes in junipers.

Adam and I thoroughly searched the property and were unable to turn up any Townsend's Solitaire. A small portion of the property also hosts an old orchard with crab apples and other fruit-bearing shrubs where we found a single Northern Mockingbird. We did have a highlight of 13 flyover CANVASBACK among the 20 species of birds we observed there (list below). Adam says he will keep an eye out for the bird to return and let us know if it does.

Canada Goose 12
Canvasback 13
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 2

Mourning Dove 4
Downy Woodpecker 2
Blue Jay 14
American Crow 12
Black-capped Chickadee 6
Tufted Titmouse 4
White-breasted Nuthatch (Eastern) 1
Brown Creeper 1
Carolina Wren 1
American Robin 21
Northern Mockingbird 1
European Starling 10
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) 10
Northern Cardinal 8
House Finch 5
American Goldfinch 6

Good birding,

David

--

David Yeany II
Allegheny County"