

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2019-01-09 21:03:53
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Michael David
<b>E-mail</b>	michaeldavid@gmail.com
<b>Observer's Address</b>	United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	David Yeany
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Townsend's Solitaire
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Myadestes townsendi
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Adult
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	12-27-2018 2:10 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50999870">https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50999870</a>
<b>County</b>	Indiana
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Penn Run
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Yellow Creek State Park
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	40.584282, -79.042640
<b>Habitat</b>	mixed woods with brush
<b>Distance to bird</b>	< 10 m
<b>Description</b>	Size and shape reminded me of a bluebird with a longer tail. Mostly medium gray above and below, with slightly darker wings and tail. Crisp white eye ring, thinner in front, white edges to tertials, and white outer tail feathers. Buffy color at bases of primaries, forming a solid bar on open wing.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	Loosely associated with robins, feeding on berries and also grabbing invertebrates from the ground.
<b>Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)</b>	Uniform gray color eliminates most species. Gray Catbird ruled out by white eye ring, wing markings, outer tail feathers.

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

Yes, diagnostic photos taken

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph  
Video

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[Townsend's Solitaire, Indiana, PA 1.JPG](#)



[Townsend's Solitaire, Indiana, PA 2.JPG](#)



[Townsend's Solitaire, Indiana, PA 3.JPG](#)



[Townsend's Solitaire, Indiana, PA 4.JPG](#)



[Townsend's Solitaire, Indiana, PA 5.JPG](#)





[Townsend's Solitaire, Indiana, PA 6.JPG](#)



[Townsend's Solitaire, Indiana, PA 7.JPG](#)

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Ed Donley was the first to spot the bird, perched near the entrance to the Chapel at approximately 3PM on 12/26. With the initial view being at some distance, he thought that it was a N. Mockingbird. We relocated the bird a little while later, farther down the hill where you and Roger photographed it in the trees and on the ground this morning. The closer view allowed us to eliminate mockingbird when we saw the eye-ring and proportions that didn't match (bill and tail too short, and differing in shape). At about 3:30 PM, we got the views we needed (in the open, rather than in thick cover, and in the sun that had broken through the clouds) to note the buffy wing patch and the white outer tail feathers. Having seen the species plenty of times before in my fieldwork in the Rocky Mountains, I made the call on the species. Mark had re-joined us by then, so three of us got excellent views of all the critical features to confirm the identification. We watched it feeding and sparring a bit with the robins and waxwings that were feeding in the same fruit-bearing trees for 20 minutes to half an hour before we took our hike down to the breast of the dam to scope the waters there. We checked in on it again on our return trip to confirm that it was still there but kept our distance to avoid spooking it.

-Margaret Higby