

694-01-1995
Bohemian Waxwing, Norven Co.

On November 10, 1995, at approximately 7:45 a.m. I walked out toward our pond which is about 150 yards from our house near Saybrook which is about two miles northwest of Sheffield, Pa. As I approached the base of the pond bank, I observed about 40 Cedar Waxwings perched in a 70 foot Quaking Aspen. The birds were scattered about on the bare branches from a height of about 35 feet to the top of the tree. The morning sun was slanting in from behind me---a very rare occurrence for November of 1995 in Northwestern Pennsylvania, I might add. I scanned the birds with 7x35 binoculars from a distance of about 30 feet from the base of the tree. My husband has been instructing me for years to be on the lookout for a Bohemian among flocks of Cedars, but, actually, I was more intent on finding an Eastern Bluebird; I have on several occasions observed a Bluebird traveling with Cedars in early November.

I suddenly noticed that one of the birds facing me about 35 to 40 feet up in the tree was different from the others in that its undertail coverts were a bright rust shade. I could hardly believe my eyes! I raced back to the house to get Chuck and Peterson's Field Guide, praying all the while that the bird would stay put.

We hurried back to the site and found the bird still in place. Chuck had no trouble spotting the bird with the rust under its tail because the sun still obligingly shone right on it. The bird then moved, partially turning away from us, and, by moving off to the side ourselves, we were able to see its left side without allowing the sun to shine in our eyes.

There was a fairly wide lateral slash of white about two thirds of the way toward the tail end of the wing and below that a narrow band of yellow to the end of the wing. The tip of the tail was yellow as it is in the Cedar Waxwing. We also noted that the bird was a little larger than its companions and also that there was no yellowish cast to its belly; it was a more uniform grayish brownish shade.

We observed the bird for 15 to 20 minutes and there was no doubt in our minds that it indeed was a Bohemian Waxwing---a first for both of us.

I called our good friend, birder Ted Grisez, in Warren, and he came down to see it, but, unfortunately, the flock had departed by the time he arrive. Some Cedars appeared while he was there, but no Bohemian was among them.

Later, around 12:30 to 2:30, I carefully examined a flock of approximately 80 Waxwings in the same area as they flew back and forth from surrounding Aspen to a large Asiatic Crab to feed, but could not find a Bohemian among them.

Marjorie Neel
Star Route, Box 643
Sheffield, Pa. 16347

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Bohemian Waxwing (Bombycilla garrulus)**

Date of Sighting: **10 November 1995 to 10 November 1995**

Location: **SAYBROOK**

County: **WARREN**

Observer(s): **Marjorie Neel**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Marjorie Neel**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary): *F. C. Haas*

Date: *2-22-97*