

694-02-1995



BOHEMIAN WAXWING

Bombycilla garrulus

Location: Fairview

Date: November 24, 1995

Time: 8:50 to 8:55 AM

Weather: Cloudy, wind light from the southwest, visibility good.

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular

Details of sighting and description: I was at work and was about to check a pond screen that was constantly being plugged with leaves when I saw some bird activity ahead of me. Most of the birds were Dark-eyed Junco, Tree Sparrow, and Goldfinch, but I could hear a few waxwings. While walking down the path to the pond I saw a half dozen or so Cedar Waxwings feeding on rose hips on either side of the path just a few feet from me. Suddenly a waxwing shot in front and directly away from me that was obviously larger and grayer than the Cedar Waxwings and showed flashy white bars on the wings. It called once and compared to the Cedar Waxwings call, was distinctly lower pitched and grating. I was sure at this point that it was a Bohemian Waxwing, but I wanted a more satisfactory look. It had flown to the right side of the path and landed in some rose bushes. After walking a few feet the bird came into view no more than 15 yards in front of me at eye level. I had stunning views of the bird for only a few seconds before a Blue Jay flew in and flushed the waxwings. The Bohemian flew off with about eight or ten Cedars and the larger size of the former was quite apparent. The following details were noted while the bird was perched: The brownish crest on the top of the head and the black patch through the eye and on the throat as well as the narrow yellow band at the tip of the blackish tail readily identified this bird as a waxwing. The cheek and forehead showed a reddish blush. The entire underside, mantle, rump, scapulars, and greater coverts were medium gray not brown or buff as in Cedar Waxwing. The black primaries were interrupted by a narrow white bar crossing at the base of the primaries. The tips of the primaries were distinctly edged with whitish-yellow. The gray secondaries were tipped in white with waxy red projections typical of all waxwings. The undertail coverts were maroon not white as in Cedar Waxwing.

I have seen only one other Bohemian Waxwing, and that was in 1993. This bird was photographed by Frank Haas and myself and was accepted by P.O.R.C.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: **24 November 1995 to 24 November 1995**

Location: **FAIRVIEW**

County: **ERIE**

Observer(s): **Jerry McWilliams**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Jerry McWilliams**

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			5					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. C. Haas

Date:

2-22-97