



694-01-2003

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

Age: appeared to be first-winter

Date: February 6, 2003, ~1:00 PM

Location: Lake City, Girard, Erie County

Site: Lake City water storage tank

Observer: Ben Coulter
3431 Argyle Ave
Erie, PA 16505-1804
814-838-9773
aeridia@velocity.net

Other observers: Peter Robinson, Dave Wilton

Habitat: The bird was feeding with a large flock of about 100 Cedar Waxwings on grapes and berries.

Distance to bird: The bird was viewed within a hundred feet.

Conditions: partly cloudy to overcast.

Optics: Swarovski 8.5x42 binoculars, Leica 77mm APO scope w/ 20-60x eyepiece, Nikon Coolpix 995

Description: The overall color of the head was gray-brown, with a rosy wash on the forehead, malar, and behind the eye. The chin and throat were blackish, with a diffuse lower border, forming a bib. The lores and supercilium were black, creating a black mask from the bill through the eye. The crown had a long crest. The feathering extending farthest onto the lower mandible was white, blending into the pink wash of the face. There was a very faint whitish line at the lower rear quarter of the eye.

The breast, sides, belly, flanks, scapulars, mantle, rump, and uppertail coverts were medium gray with a slight brownish cast on the mantle and breast. The vent was pale gray. The secondary wing coverts and tertials were the same shade of gray as the body. The secondaries were dark gray, with white tips. The primary coverts had white tips, sometimes visible on the folded wing. The primaries were blackish, with a straw yellow streak on the outer webs, and no white on the inner webs. This is consistent with a first-winter bird. No waxy tips were evident on the secondaries or tertials. The undertail coverts were a deep rusty color. The tail feathers were blackish, with a somewhat narrow yellow terminal band.

The iris was dark. The bill was gray, paler at the base, becoming darker at the tip. There was a slight hook on the upper mandible. The legs were blackish.

The bird was roughly 25 percent larger than the accompanying Cedar Waxwings.

Behavior: The Bohemian was feeding with a group of about 100 Cedar Waxwings. They were feeding on grapes and purple berries in bushes off the dirt road. The flock would land in a nearby tree, then the birds would individually drop down to the bushes to feed. They were calling frequently while feeding.

Vocalizations: The Bohemian Waxwing called while it was feeding. The calls were not as high-pitched as the Cedars, and I would characterize the individual notes as coarser.

Supporting Evidence: see photographs by Ben Coulter.

Similar species: Cedar Waxwing is smaller and browner, lacks white or yellow markings on the flight feathers, lacks reddish wash on head, and has pale, not rufous, undertail coverts. Cedar has white inner webs on the tertials, which Bohemian does not show. The belly is yellowish.

Discussion: This Bohemian Waxwing was originally found by Rick Kreider, the supervisor of the water systems for the borough, on January 31, 2003, at the same site.

Prior experience: I have seen this species once before in Pennsylvania, in November 2001, at Presque Isle State Park.

INDEX

BOHEMIAN WAXWING 2-6-03.doc- written documentation for this sighting.

DSCN1320.jpg- Bohemian Waxwing in a sycamore with a Cedar waxwing. Rufous undertail coverts are visible, as well as face pattern. Lower border of bib is not sharply defined.

DSCN1328.jpg- Bohemian Waxwing perched (right), with two Cedar Waxwings. Straw-colored markings on outer webs of primaries are visible. Rosy wash on face is visible.

DSCN1337.jpg- Bohemian Waxwing perched with Cedar Waxwings. Closeup shows details of facial pattern, grayish overall color, white markings on flight feathers, rufous undertail coverts, and narrow yellow tail band.

DSCN1338.jpg- Peter Robinson and Dave Wilton at the Lake City water tank site after viewing the bird.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Bohemian Waxwing (Bombycilla garrulus)

Date of Sighting: 6 February 2003 to 6 February 2003

Location: LAKE CITY

County : ERIE

Observer(s): Ben Coulter, Peter Robinson, Dave Wilton

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Ben Coulter

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

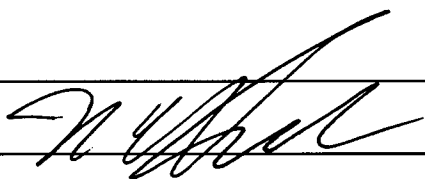
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead RWILTINT	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

3/1/03