





799-01-2011

PORC Report for  
Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus*  
Exact age undetermined, possible first winter bird based on plumage  
November 22, 2011, 9:40 am through 10:50 am, 5 sightings during my visit  
Berks County, Pennsylvania  
Blue Marsh Recreation Area, Stilling Basin Area

Observer: Holly Merker  
520 Baintree Run  
Downingtown, PA 19335  
610-733-4392  
[HCybelle@aol.com](mailto:HCybelle@aol.com)

Multiple observers of this targeted bird which was first discovered by an unknown gentleman on November 20, 2011, and reported to the PABirds listserv Joan Silagy.

Green-tailed Towhee was first noticed working the brush area, moving right to left. I first spotted the bird foraging on the ground, it quickly flew to the left near a cedar where it was relocated by other birders soon thereafter.

The towhee was then seen around the base of a single cedar tree, and feeding on birdseed strategically placed by a birder. Additional sightings included this same vicinity, as well a few hundred yards from initial observation site.

Viewing conditions were not great, as weather was poor with heavy misty rain and heavy and low cloud cover.

On three separate occasions, I heard the bird vocalize prior to feeding. The call sounded "mew" like, and reminiscent of a Gray Catbird, but more melodic. The towhee would make this call, then drop down to feed, where it did so silently among White-throated Sparrows.

Bird was viewed from about 10-20 yards at most.  
Please see photo for documentation.

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round One**

Species: Green-tailed Towhee      Pipilo chlorurus

Date of Sighting: 18 December 2011 to 18 December 2011

County : BERKS

Location : BLUE MARSH LAKE

Observer(s): Jody Hey, multiple observers

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Holly Merker, Howard Eskin

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. DeReamus	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
C. Rutt	X							
D. Weber	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)      Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/11/12