



782-01-1999

P. O. Box 482
1336 Broadway
Hanover, PA 17331
28 April 1999

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

C/O Frank Haas
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555-9726

Dear PORC:

The following report is based upon my own notes, made at the time of the observation, offered in case no one else submitted documentation, or in case the additional documentation is of some benefit.

Species: Western Tanager (male)

Date/Time: 31 March 1999, 7:10 AM - 8:05 AM

Location: Feeder at rear of home of Debbie Boyle, 33 Ridge Road, Glen Rock, York County, PA

Weather: 42 degrees F, clear, SW 5-10 mph

Observer: Peter Robinson

Optics: Leica Ultra 12x50 BA binoculars; Bausch & Lomb Balscope Sr. scope at 20X.

Observation: The bird came to the feeder three times, for 15 to 30 seconds each time, then flew back into a holly tree that was just behind the feeder. I watched it from the car, about 45 yards away, and got good views of the cowbird-sized bird that was orangish-yellow on the head and all underneath the body. The back and wings were black. There were two prominent wing bars. The bill was "stocky", and not very sharply pointed. The bird had some red colored feathers just above and below the bill.

Please see the attached photograph that was taken by the homeowner, Debbie Boyle. The photo shows the yellow head, yellow throat, chest, and belly. It shows the black back and black wings with two wing bars. The photo also shows a little red color on the lower forehead at the bill. There are four Dark-eyed Junco in the photo for size comparison.

Comments: The bird was identified on Friday, 15 January 1999, by the homeowner, Debbie Boyle, who then called the Wild Bird Store in York to ask if someone could come to confirm the identification. The

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store called Karen Lippy (Hanover), who was able to see it the following morning and confirmed that the bird was a male Western Tanager. The bird was reported on the PA Birds listserve, and several other people went looking for the bird, but did not see it. After returning from a weekend trip, I looked for the bird on January 18 and 20, but did not see it. The homeowner soon began to say that the bird had left. I had learned that the homeowner had taken photographs of the bird, called her March 30 to ask if she had gotten the film developed, and to ask if I could get a copy of a print for the PORC. After we had talked about the bird for a while, she said: "if I tell you something, will you promise to not tell anyone else", to which I replied "yes". She then said that the bird was STILL coming to the feeder, almost every day, and that I could come to see it if I would not bother the bird. I went at 7 AM the next morning, sat in the car and watched the feeder. This was apparently the last day that the bird was seen. The homeowner said that she began (about January 25) to say that the bird was gone because she was afraid that people looking for it would scare it away.

Sincerely,



Peter Robinson

717.632.8462

peterrobins@hotmail.com

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviiana*)

Date of Sighting: 15 January 1999 to 31 March 1999

Location: GLEN ROCK

County: YORK

Observer(s): Debbie Boyle, Peter Robinson

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Debbie Boyle, Peter Robinson

Written Description: Yes

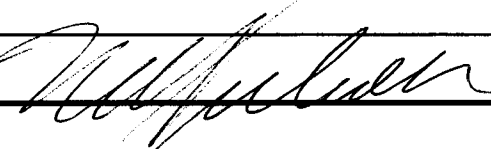
Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Recording: Video			Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. Couchman	X							
P. Hess	X							
R. Ickes	X							
B. Reid	X							
P. Rodewald	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0/0

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 11/15/00