

PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2014-09-10 20:42:45
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Timothy Becker
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<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 10283 Jonestown Rd City: Grantville State / Province: Pa Postal / Zip Code: 17028 Country: United States
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Western Tanager
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Piranga ludoviciana
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	non breeding, sex unknown
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	09-10-2014 8:10 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/pa/view/checklist?subID=S19777508">http://ebird.org/ebird/pa/view/checklist?subID=S19777508</a>
<b>County</b>	Lebanon
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Grantville
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	At home address above
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	N 40.391102 W -76.611547
<b>Habitat</b>	Yard with fruit trees and a row of Norway Spruces
<b>Distance to bird</b>	20 yards
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Clear. Viewed through a window
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Bushnell 7 x 35 Binoculars
<b>Description</b>	Looked like a non breeding Scarlet Tanager, with a pair of distinct whitish wingbars. Other differences from a Scarlet Tanager were that the black wing color continued across the back, and the crown of the head was green and grey, as distinct from the bright yellow coloration of the throat, breast and undertail coverts. A Black-throated Green Warbler

perched at one point within a foot of the Tanager to provide a good size reference. The WETA was significantly larger than the warbler. The Tanager at first perched facing me, and I thought that it was a Scarlet Tanager. When it turned broadside I saw the pair of whitish wingbars, and then began to study it closely for any details that I might need to make the identification after it departed. The Tail was black above and below, and notched. It contrasted sharply with the yellow undertail coverts. The bill was stout and appeared light greyish in color. The legs and feet were dark grey.

**Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)**

The Tanager flew into a Norway Spruce outside of our window, and perched next to a Black-throated Green Warbler. At first it was facing me, then turned broadside. It departed after perhaps two minutes.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

Separated from Scarlet Tanager by the wingbars, which were fairly bold, and the black coloration that continued across the back. Separated from Goldfinch by size, solid black undertail feathers, dark rather than pinkish legs, the black coloration which continued across the back, and the green and grey head color. Separated from Oriole species by black undertail feathers, notched tail, and body shape.

**Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:**

I know that Scarlet Tanagers can have weak wingbars on occasion, but these were fairly bold. Also, the light greyish bill color differed from the yellowish bill color that I saw on most of the WETA photos. But I also saw a number of photos with light grey bills. So there appears to be some variation on this feature.

**Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)**

Yes, spent a considerable amount of time ruling out all other possibilities immediately after viewing.

**During**

I spent the time that it was in view studying every detail that I could find.

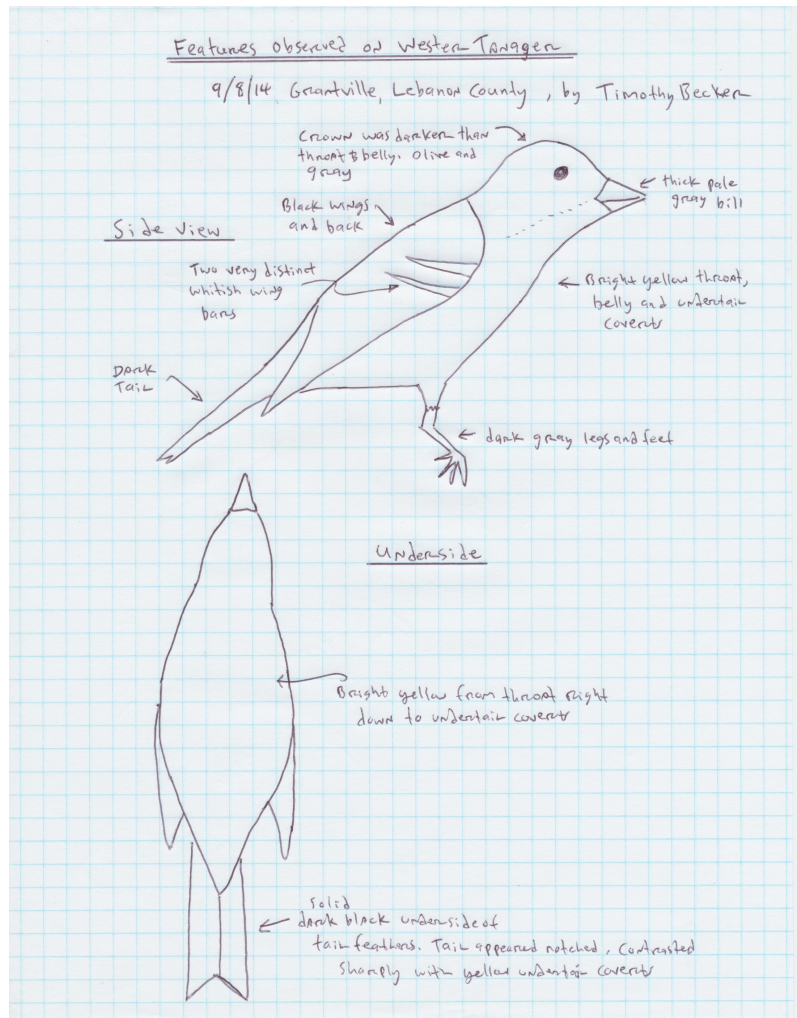
**After**

Sibley Guide to Birds, Cornell Bird site, PSO Birds of Pa photos, many online photos.

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**

Drawing

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[Western Tanager.jpeg](#)

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