

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2016-01-09 16:50:22
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Michael David
<b>E-mail</b>	michaeldavid@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	4123906773
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 7420 Ben Hur St City: Pittsburgh State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15208 Country: United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, Dick Snyder, Deb Grove
<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>	Adult Male
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	11-28-2015 7:30 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S26025551">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S26025551</a>
<b>County</b>	Centre
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	State College
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Walnut Grove Rd
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	40.840225, -77.840730
<b>Habitat</b>	Open lawn with wooded edge
<b>Distance to bird</b>	50 feet
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	cloudy, low early morning light
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Bushnell Discoverer 8x42 binoculars, Swarovski ATX-95 scope
<b>Description</b>	Cardinal-sized passerine with fairly heavy somewhat curved bill. Bright yellow blending into orange on head. Black wings with bold white wingbars, and black tail.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	Visited feeders, then perched in top of large trees before flying out of sight.

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

Distinctive species. Tanagers of other species duller (or red) and without bold wing bars. Bill size and shape eliminates other yellowish passerines such as orioles and American Goldfinch.

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

Yes - diagnostic photograph.

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

Photograph

**Upload images, audio, video or drawings**



[Western Tanager, Centre Co. PA.JPG](#)

**Click to edit**

PORC-webform00296

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2015-11-23 08:16:58
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Dick Snyder
<b>E-mail</b>	wegoustay@aol.com
<b>Phone</b>	814-933-7603
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 1810 Walnut Grove Drive City: State College State / Province: Pa Postal / Zip Code: 16801 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>	Male
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	11-21-2015 7:40 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>County</b>	Centre
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Benner Township
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Feeder/cedar tree in backyard at residence
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	N40.84018 W-77.840651
<b>Habitat</b>	pan sunflower feeder next to house and nearby cedar tree along edge of forested area
<b>Distance to bird</b>	when at feeder less than 10', maybe 18" when in tree
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	clear day
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Canon Digital SLR with 100-400 lens, cropped image for posting. Not knowing file size for posting I reduced size of image somewhat.
<b>Description</b>	striking black and yellow, rounded head, black eye, orangish above lores and in front of eyes, whitish wing bars, blackish-grey upper mantle, noticeable bright yellow lower back, darkish tail tipped in white, mottled cheek patch. Noticeably larger than American goldfinches feeding nearby.

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

taking sunflower seeds in tray feeder. Also, taking fruit of eastern cedar tree. A calm bird, did not seem bothered by neighboring goldfinches or others feeding nearby. Did not seem to mind my movement at nearby window while taking photos. Moved between feeder tray and cedar tree a couple of times. Upon seeing this bird first time I immediately left window to get camera. After taking several pictures I left window to get id book (knowing this was a new species to me) and when I returned it was gone. Checked nearby trees/shrubs but did not see bird again. As part of Project Feeder Watch protocol I observed feeder area several times during the day but never saw bird again.

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

Size and color. Uncertain of id and not trusting myself to think western tanager I posted pics on "What is this bird" web site for comments.

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

Pictures speak for themselves

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

Based on comments from the What Bird is This website and comments from birding enthusiast who stopped by yesterday having seen pics on eBird Pa I am confident as to id. Also, my pics fit those on several birding books

**After**

Besides web site mentioned, also used The Crossley Guide to Eastern Birds and others.

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

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video  
or drawings



[IMG\\_9617\\_edited-2.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_9623\\_edited-2.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_9627\\_edited-2.jpg](#)

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2015-12-01 20:20:28
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Mike Fialkovich
<b>E-mail</b>	mpfial@verizon.net
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Country: United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	David Yeany
<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>	adult male, basic plumage
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	11-29-2015 8:10 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
<b>County</b>	Centre
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	State College
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Walnut Grove Drive
<b>Habitat</b>	Residential backyard bordered by woodland.
<b>Distance to bird</b>	Approximately 20 yards.
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Excellent. Clear views through binoculars.
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Leica 10 X 40 binoculars.
<b>Description</b>	<p>Medium size passerine, larger than a sparrow but smaller than a robin. Perhaps towhee sized with a shorter tail.</p> <p>Head, underparts and rump bright yellow.</p> <p>Mantle black with dull white edges to the feathers imparting a scaly appearance. Wings black with two wingbars: a broad short yellow wingbar at the shoulder formed by the median (and perhaps lesser) coverts and a second longer white wingbar formed from white tips to the greater coverts. Tertials black, broadly edged white. Tail black.</p> <p>Legs and feet black. Bill dull yellow, upper mandible a bit dusky; rather short and stout.</p> <p>Some dusky black around the rear of the auriculars forming a dull patch. A tinge of red on the forehead and throat, near the bill base.</p>

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

I first observed the bird perched in a juniper tree next to the house. It flew into the brush at the edge of the yard where it perched for brief periods, then worked through the edge of the yard and up the road. Following it, I heard it give a rattle like call several times. It returned to the yard about an hour after the initial sighting and perched for extended periods of time in the brush at the edge of the yard. It moved around from tree to tree and fed briefly on the ground under a feeder which one of my photos shows. I had excellent views as it came close to the feeding area.

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

Easily separated from non-breeding, immature or female plumaged Scarlet Tanager which is duller yellow and lacks wingbars and a black back. Summer Tanager female has a larger bill and lacks black wings, back and tail and wingbars. Too large for an American Goldfinch which would not be bright yellow this time of year.

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

This bird was present for at least a week, observed and photographed by several birders before I made the trip to see it. It's been well documented by many observers including the homeowner.

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

Yes. I've seen Western Tanagers in Arizona and California.

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

Photograph



[Western Tanager, State College, 11-29-2015, Mike Fialkovich \(1\).JPG](#)



[Western Tanager, State College, 11-29-2015, Mike Fialkovich \(2\).JPG](#)



[Western Tanager, State College, 11-29-2015, Mike Fialkovich \(3\).JPG](#)