

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-11-10 07:48:39
Observer's Name	Richard Smith
E-mail	mkfsmith@verizon.net
Phone	215 598-3054
Observer's Address	5388 Ridge Road New Hope PA 18938 United States
Names of additional observers	Daniel H. Smith (adult son) Originally seen by Richard only who then went and got Daniel as second observer who had a couple of quick looks in scope. No time for photo before bird left.
Species (Common Name)	Western Tanager
Species (Scientific Name)	Piranga ludoviciana
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	non-breeding adult female type
Observation Date and Time	11-4-2018 3:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/s49680306
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Buckingham Twp.
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Maple Knoll Farms (eBird top hot spot for County)
Habitat	hedgerow in farm fields
Distance to bird	70 ' away and 20 ' up in top of bare walnut tree by Richard. Then 70 ' and 60' up in honey locust tree with leaves by Richard and Daniel
Viewing conditions	Excellent viewing conditions, low sun, clear, sun at our backs and bird in front, bird well lit. Bird mostly seen from below.
Optical equipment used	Swarovski SLC 10X42 and Swarovski 20-60 spotting scope

Description	Bright yellow below head to tail including under tail coverts; slightly lighter on flanks; round, yellow head with faint, yellow eye ring; short, fairly heavy orange bill; gray back and wings with wings slightly darker; two distinct, white wing bars; size, shape and manner similar to scarlet tanager; noticeably smaller than blue jay and much larger than ruby-crowned kinglets that were present in same tree.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was near to top of tree; foraged within tree; had an upright posture.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Scarlet tanager has no wing bars and is wrong color. Yellow bellied flycatcher has wrong actions, has left the area and wrong bill shape and color. Orioles-wrong shape, bill wrong size and color. Goldfinch-totally wrong size and dull colored at this time of year.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	I have seen Western Tanagers 2x in Pennsylvania in winter, 1/19/18 in Ottsville and 2/17/16 in State Collage. Have also seen them in Hunterdon County, NJ, 1/21/07 and Ash Canyon, AZ 4/14/06. Looked very similar to photos of Western Tanager in Ottsville both personal and on ebird.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes, 100%. I had very good looks, time to look at bird and field guide. No other bird has this shape, size and markings.
During	Sibley Birds East 2nd Edition
After	The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America. Also, ebird.
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