

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2014-07-09 22:08:43
<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>	Malcolm Harter
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Yellow-headed Blackbird
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus
<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>	04-17-2014 5:20 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
<b>County</b>	Westmoreland
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Lower Burrell
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Private Residence
<b>Habitat</b>	Suburban/rural backyard on top of a hill. Open field beyond the yard.
<b>Distance to bird</b>	Approximately 30 feet.
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Excellent. Close view through binoculars and spotting scope.
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Leica Ultravid 10 x 42 binoculars, Leica Spotting Scope with 20 - 60x zoom eyepiece.
<b>Description</b>	Blackbird slightly smaller than Common Grackle, but larger than Red-winged Blackbird. Several Red-winged Blackbirds visited the feeders in the yard while I was waiting for the Yellow-headed Blackbird. Black overall with yellow head. Some black flecks on the nape. Black lores, blackish bill, legs and feet black. Small white patch on the lower part of the folded wing near the bend of the wing, easily seen in the photo submitted.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	After a lengthy wait of five hours the bird appeared perched in a shrub just beyond the property line. It perched there for several minutes allowing photos and observation. It called

twice, emitting the buzzy part of the song. It flew to a tree in the yard and perched for a few minutes, apparently interested in the feeder. It did not visit the feeder but flew off. A few minutes later it returned to the tree and perched for a few minutes before flying off again. As far as I'm aware, that was the last time it was seen. Another observer searched the following day for a few hours without luck.

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

No other blackbirds in North America are black with a yellow head.

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

The bird was visiting feeders at a private residence for at least a week prior to this sighting. The homeowner was encouraged to report the bird to the local Audubon Society (The Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania). Brian Shema from the society sent a text alert about the bird, however he stated the homeowner requested privacy but would allow someone to come and photograph the bird. Malcolm Harter arrived before I did. By chance I had the afternoon off work that day and he asked the homeowner for permission. The homeowner agreed to allow me to also stop by.

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

Yes. Bird is obvious and was photographed.

**During**

None.

**After**

None.

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

Photograph

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



Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lower Burrell 4-17-2014 (6).JPG



Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lower Burrell 4-17-2014 (3).JPG

**Click to edit**

PORC-webform00215

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Ballot – Round One

Species: Yellow-headed Blackbird      Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

Number of Individuals observed: 1

Date of Sighting: 4-17-2014

County : Westmoreland

Location : Lower Burrell Private residence

GPS Coordinates:

Observer(s): Mike Fialkovich      Malcolm Harter

Date of Submission: 7-9-2014

Submitted by: Mike Fialkovich

Written Description:    yes    Photo:    yes    Specimen: no    Recording: no

Committee Member:

VOTE: (Check one)

Class I (P) (S) (R) (O)

Class II

Class III

Class IV-A

Class IV-B

Class IV-C

Class V

Comments:

Member Signature:

Date: