PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date 2014-07-09 22:08:43

Observer's Name Mike Fialkovich

E-mail mpfial@verizon.net

Observer's Address **Country: United States**

Names of additional observers Malcolm Harter

Yellow-headed Blackbird Species (Common Name)

Species (Scientific Name) Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

Number of individuals 1

Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)

Adult male.

Observation Date and Time 04-17-2014 5:20 PM

Did you submit this sighting to eBird?

Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)

Westmoreland County

Location (City, Borough, Township)

Lower Burrell

Exact Site (E.g. Name of park,

lake, road)

Private Residence

Habitat Suburban/rural backyard on top of a hill. Open field beyond

the yard.

Distance to bird Approximately 30 feet.

Viewing conditions Excellent. Close view through binoculars and spotting

scope.

Leica Ultravid 10 x 42 binoculars, Leica Spotting Scope with Optical equipment used

20 - 60x zoom eyepiece.

Description 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.

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

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.

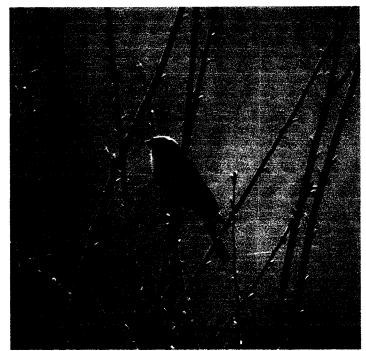
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

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

Record No: 859-01-2014

Date:

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot – Round One

Species: Yellow-headed Blackbird Number of Individuals observed: 1 Date of Sighting: 4-17-2014 County: Westmoreland Location: Lower Burrell Private reside GPS Coordinates: Observer(s): Mike Fialkovich Malcol Date of Submission: 7-9-2014 Submitted by: Mike Fialkovich	Xanthocephalus xanth ence m Harter	ocephalus	
Written Description: yes Photo: y	es 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: