

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2020-08-18 20:26:41
Observer's Name	August Mirabella
E-mail	augustmirabella@aol.com
Phone	2153680594
Observer's Address	1443 Wheaton Lane North Wales PA 19454 United States
Names of additional observers	none
Species (Common Name)	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	1st winter male
Observation Date and Time	08-17-2020 10:00 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/edit/checklist?subID=S72515598
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	New Britain Twp.
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Peace Valley Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	40° 19'34.1"N 75° 11'21.8"W
Habitat	Plowed farm field
Distance to bird	first about 30 ft. with bins, then about 150 ft. via scope
Viewing conditions	Sunny
Optical equipment used	Leica 10x42 Bins Leica scope

Description	1st yr. male. Bright yellow breast (brighter than what is shown in Sibley) with much duller yellow supercilium extending to the black bill. Black strip between eye and bill. Dull yellow malar & behind the darker cheeks. Facial pattern essentially as shown in Sibley. The thing that I was surprised to see so easily as the flock flew was the small yellow vent area that stood out against the dark belly/under-tail. The dark upper & lower parts were not pitch black but very dark. The bird was bigger than the many cowbirds it was with.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Feeding with a large flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds. Likely on the high end of 100-200 cowbirds.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	No other expected blackbird has mostly black body with bright yellow breast. No other blackbird has a yellow vent spot against the black body.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	I would never have seen this if not counting the cowbirds through the car window. It was close to the road at first giving great views but moving a lot on the freshly plowed field. Before I could get a picture the flock flew to far side of plowed area. I was able to get it in the scope for more convincing views. Then they flew to opposite end of field. This was all in less than ten-fifteen minutes I guess. At that point the farmer showed up and made a pass around the field going right where the birds were. Apparently something was wrong with the equipment as he stopped and checked and then left. What timing!!! Never saw the birds return. Never expected to find one of these locally. This is the 9th county report.
After	Sibley Guide
Click to edit	PORC-webform00178