

**Species: Shiny Cowbird**    **Count: 1**  
**Observer: Linette Mansberger**  
**Observation date: Jun 2, 2013**  
**Location: Private yard, Adams County**  
**Email: lmcopperhead <lmcopperhead@aol.com**  
**Date of report: Tue, Jun 25, 2013 10:13 pm**  
Email report sent to eBird reviewer Ramsay Koury  
**with photos** of Shiny cowbird  
observation, Adams Cty, June 2, 2013

*Hello, Ramsay!*

*I am attaching 5 pictures of the cowbird seen on June 2 and 1 picture of Brown-headed Cowbirds that I took in the winter when they were using the same feeder in case you want to look for any size comparisons. This bird caught my eye because I could see no brown on the head and knew it was too small to be a Common Grackle.*

*I will be interested to hear your opinion.*

*Thank you!*

*Linette*

Notification of sighting posted in PABirds:

Date: Wed, 26 Jun 2013 11:21:40 -0400

From: Tom Johnson <tbj4@CORNELL.EDU>

Subject: Shiny Cowbird - Adams Co.

PABirders,

On June 2, Linette Mansberger identified and photographed a male Shiny Cowbird at her feeders in Adams County. This is the first documented record of Shiny Cowbird for Pennsylvania, and one of few for the Northeast (there are records for Maine, Massachusetts, and Nova Scotia, as well as several mid-Atlantic records from Virginia and North Carolina).

After checking the identification and realizing the rarity of this species in the state, Linette submitted a report to eBird. When eBird reviewer Ramsay Koury requested documentation of this exceptional sighting, Linette sent in several photos that confirm the bird's identity as a Shiny Cowbird, showing its slim bill and a glossy purple & blue sheen to its black plumage. She hasn't seen the cowbird again since June 2, but will keep an eye out and let us know if it returns. The photos have been submitted to PORC for review & archival.

One of Linette's photos of the Shiny Cowbird is online here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bonxie88/>

Tom Johnson  
Hummelstown, PA



















