

## **Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report Form**

**Species** (Common and Scientific Name): Lesser Goldfinch - *Carduelis Psaltria*

**Number of individuals Sex(es)**: 1 Adult Male

**Age Plumage**: Texas Plumage

**Date and Time of Observation**: April 9 about 1:30 PM until 7 PM

**Location**: Shady Grove, PA - Franklin County - Antrim Township

**Exact Site**: 1872 Burkholder Rd., Greencastle, PA

**Observer Reporting**: Dale L. Gearhar

**Observer Address**: 1872 Burkholder Rd., P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256

**Observer Email**: dgearhart01@comcast.net

**Observer Phone**: 717-860-5799

**Other Observers**: Carl Garner, Robert & Marion Carmack, Bill Oyler, Eric Martin and Bob Keener

**Habitat**: Grass area near woodland

**Distance to Bird**: About 15 ft.

**Viewing Conditions**: Partly cloudy and cool in the 60's F.

**Optical Equip**: Sony Cyber Shot Digital HX200V

**Description**: This bird was seen with several American Goldfinch and it stood out with the very black back which immediately cause a red flag. when I got the bino on the bird I saw the white patch on the wing and three secondary covert area. This told me it was a Goldfinch I had seen in Colorado or new Mexico years ago. The bill was a rather drab gray and the black coloring covered the entire top of the head from the beak to the back meeting the black back all of which was very obvious markings. The size of the bird appear to be the same as the American Goldfinches around it but they were constantly changing positions and locations it was difficult to make an exact comparison. Pasture was very similar to the American Goldfinch .

**Behavior**: The bird was in and out, back and forth, of the feeder about every 20 - 40 minutes and drank from the bird bath several times that I noticed. It would feed for 3-5 minutes than leave and go somewhere and return in the time periods I mentioned. It used my sack type feeder always and not the tube type, both having thistle seeds in them.

**Vocalizations**: I did not hear it vocalize at any time.

**Supporting evidence if any**: Photograph by Dale L. Gearhart

The seven persons mentioned previously are all very good birders

Many birders came the next and only two saw it through a scope a neighbors feeder (around 1 PM) some distance away. No one else saw it the next day or since Tuesday.

**Report Date:** Apr 12, 2012



