

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-01-11 13:21:58
Observer's Name	Peter Burns
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Phone	2157408873
Observer's Address	Street Address: 711 Avondale Rd City: Erdenheim State / Province: Pennsylvania Postal / Zip Code: 19038 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Martin Selzer, Robin Irizarry, Phil and Linda Grutzmacher, Pete Carter and Tom de Rivera
Species (Common Name)	Ash-throated flycatcher
Species (Scientific Name)	Myiarchus cinerascens
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult in winter plumage
Observation Date and Time	01-09-2016 9:00 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	S26789527
County	Philadelphia
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Tacony Creek Park
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Fisher Meadow, above Fishers Lane Bridge in Tacony Creek Park - US-PA-Philadelphia-Tacony Creek Park. The large, graffitied rock on the hillside visible from Fishers Lane bridge is an excellent landmark, the bird was directly above it at times.
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.0213x-75.1041, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, US
Habitat	Grassy meadow surrounded by tall deciduous trees
Distance to bird	40 to 100 feet
Viewing conditions	Overcast day, temperatures in the 40s, no wind
Optical equipment used	Swarovski EL 8.5X42, Swarovski SLC 10X42, Nikon Monarch 5 10X42
Description	Distinct Myiarchus flycatcher grayish brown above, breast light gray, belly and undertail coverts slightly pale yellow, rufous outer primaries and inner margins on tail, distinct crest on head, bill slender and delicate. The bird did not vocalize. Digiscoped documentation photos by Robin Irizarry are attached. Observed for about 30 minutes from 9:00 am and 9:30 am moving slowly along tree tops.

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

Bird was feeding in the tops of the leafless deciduous trees, moving slowly through the treetops along the border of the meadow.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

There was no clear demarcation between the breast and belly as there would be in a Great Crested Flycatcher. The head was definitely crested and not rounded as in Great crested, Brown-Crested, Dusky-capped or other Myiarchus. The bill was "thin" and pointed, not robust as in other Myiarchus. There was a faint touch of rufous in the primaries (those closest to the belly while perched) and just a hint of rufous in the tail.

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

To our knowledge the bird was not refound on 09-Jan-2016 but it was refound in the same meadow on 10-Jan-2016 by Tony Croasdale and Michael McGraw.

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

Only Martin Selzer had prior experience with this species, of the 7 people observing the flycatcher. He first observed it in Big Bend National Park in 1997 and has seen it on other trips out West and in New Jersey on at least 2 occasions. Martin has experience with other members of this genus, through his travels across North, Central and South America.

During

Sibley Guide to Birds, Waite's iBird Plus

After

Sibley Guide to Birds, NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph



[IMG_20160109_151330.jpg](#)



[IMG_20160109_1513301.jpg](#)



[IMG_20160109_165818.jpg](#)



[IMG_20160109_165837.jpg](#)