

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-11-19 16:03:40
Observer's Name	Todd Watkins
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Phone	610.967.3872
Observer's Address	56 W Market St #6 BETHLEHEM PA 18018 United States
Names of additional observers	MOBS
Species (Common Name)	Tropical Kingbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus melancholicus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	11-19-2016 8:40 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32616564
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Peach Bottom, Lancaster Co. PA
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	287 Riverview Rd.
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.7505385,-76.2173764
Habitat	Agricultural, Cornfield. Overhead power wires.
Distance to bird	Various. 50-100 ft.
Viewing conditions	Clear, crisp, morning sun behind
Optical equipment used	Nikon Fieldview 60 ED spotting scope; Leica 8x32
Description	Previously identified bird, first found nearby; refound along Riverview Road. Clear Tyrannus ssp. Bright yellow breast, rises farther up breast than typical for Western Flycatcher. White throat, gray crown & forehead. Darker gray lore and behind eye. Mantle olive washed gray. Tail dark brown, not black and lacks obvious white outer vane of Western. Color of wings match color of tail. light edging to full length of tail feathers, also white edges along primaries and secondaries. Tail slightly but obviously forked. Relatively heavy bill, but in field did not appear heavy as looked in Sibley's. Did not vocalize while I observed; however distinguished from Couch's Flycatcher by call, earlier by other observers.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Actively feeding; perching on power wires and nearby barbed wire fencing. Flying up and down to corn field stubble, occasionally catching grasshoppers etc.. Sometimes perched on corn stalks.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	<p>Most obvious possibilities are Western Flycatcher or Couch's. Western easier to rule out. Yellow on breast farther up breast than typical for Western Flycatcher. Tail dark brown, not black and lacks obvious white outer vane of Western. Color of wings match color of tail, rather than the darker tail of Western. Light edging to full length of tail feathers, unlike typical on Western. Tail more obviously notched than Western. Relatively heavy bill, though if field impression was not as big a difference as shown in Sibley's.</p> <p>Couch's Kingbird harder to eliminate. Unfortunately, did not vocalize while I observed; however distinguished from Couch's Flycatcher by call earlier in morning and previous day by other observers, including Jason Horn. Several made recordings; hopefully they'll submit to PORC. Suggestive of Tropical rather than Couch's, however, is the gap between tips of folded secondaries to wingtips appear (in photos attached) short compared to photos of Couch's online and in Birdseye, and certainly compared to long gap in Western.</p>
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	Since did not hear vocalization to diagnostically rule out Couch's, mainly filing this to provide photos. Hopefully others will submit recordings. Several folks said they had recorded it earlier in the morning.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes, except for possible Couch's; for that need vocal ID of others.
During	Sibley's; Birdseye App
After	http://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/kingbirdsX.htm
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph



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[DSCN4190a.JPG](#)



[DSCN4198a.JPG](#)

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