

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2020-11-11 17:36:51
Observer's Name	BRUCE CARL
E-mail	hrdabrd@gmail.com
Phone	7173684824
Observer's Address	628 FULTON ST 628 FULTON ST AKRON PA 17501 United States
Names of additional observers	BRUCE A CARL
Submitter's Name (if you are not the original observer)	BRUCE CARL
Species (Common Name)	WESTERN TANAGER
Species (Scientific Name)	Piranga ludoviciana
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Immature/adult
Observation Date and Time	10-31-2020 7:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/checklist/S75640687
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	SGL 156 north of Penn Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	SGL 156 Furnace Hills Ridge
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.239444, -76.385448
Habitat	woodlands with dirt/gravel road between deciduos trees on south side of road and a stand of mixed evergreens on north side of road.
Distance to bird	10-40 yards
Viewing conditions	early morning light as the sun was just rising

Optical equipment used	** heard bird only - did try and locate with Nikon Monarch 8 x 40 binoculars
Description	<p>Western Tanager (1) - a single calling bird heard shortly after sun-up (between 7:30 am - 7:45 am) along the dirt road near the first large evergreen stand on the north side of the road about a 1/2 mile past last parking area before gate. first heard this repetitious some what burry sounding call that first reminded me of a robin/grosbeak/tanager. the bird was initially about 40 yards away calling from the south side of the road at the location mentioned above. the bird called for at least 2-3 minutes continuously but could not be located. estimated i got as close as 10 yards to it before it went silent to not be heard again. quickly checked some calls on phone apps/websites Sibley, Merlin, Audubon and Cornell. My first impression before listening to any calls was a type of tanager (possibly western) but was not sure of or familiar with all of it types of calls. after reviewing some calls while still at the location of where the bird was calling and reviewing some more call types at home my first impression seems to be correct as a Western Tanager. Calls very closely resemble the ones given by a calling Immature bird or an adult bird without the the rising rattle sounding (prididit call). The call was a burry sounding repetitious puree/churee type 3 syllable call. A definite initial drop in the beginning of the call then a quick rise in tone ending on a more even tone. like mentioned above the bird called repeatedly for a few minutes with a very slight variation to each call but had the same pattern as described. Bird was heard only and no recording was made. The following links are to calls that highly resemble or closely match what I was listening to on this morning.</p> <p>https://www.xeno-canto.org/424053 https://www.xeno-canto.org/424052 https://www.xeno-canto.org/424051 https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/western-tanager (immature calls)</p>
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	see above
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	I based my description of what i heard on the following: the burry quality of the calls, the repetitious nature of the calls and the pattern of the calls. The time of year ruled out many other tanagers/grosbeaks (summer, scarlet, rose breasted, black headed - this species does occur irregularly in fall/winter) and this call is not what any of those species would sound like. The scarlet tanager does have a repetitious call but is more sweeter/clearer in nature. Ruled out Purple Finch by again the quality/sound of the calls plus the continuous repeating of the same call.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	a distinct movement of northern/western species into the eastern United States so far during the the fall of 2020. Such species as Pine Siskins, Red breasted nuthatches, Purple Finches, Red Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpoll, Pine Grosbeak to name a few.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes, based on the description/explanation shown above
During	Phone Apps - Sibley, Merlin, Audubon, Cornell.
After	More in depth study of calls on xeno-canto

[Click to edit](#)

PORC-webform00198