

Western Tanager

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: Overall yellow and black with red wash around face good for Western Tanager. Also present are the pale wingbars that are not present other Tanager species in the U.S.

CM2: This was a well-documented and well seen bird by multiple observers. There were at least 8 people observing the bird when I personally saw it. The home-owner provided photographs to easily establish the identification. Provenance has been discussed and considered. Potential confounding species have been appropriately eliminated. A vote FOR this record is therefore warranted. Congratulations and thanks to the home-owners for documenting this bird and allowing it to be seen.

CM3: Amazingly detailed report giving all identification points necessary to eliminate possible species and to narrow it down to the only possible species/plumage.

CM4: Multiple experienced observers. Photo documentation.

CM5: I vote to include the Monroe County observed Western Tanager record for official state list. The excellent report with supporting photographs provides the evidence to conclusively include in the record. Page 4 details are an excellent summary of the identification of the WETA. This page should be used a model of other submissions. This Western Tanager is stocky songbird; fairly small yet noticeably larger and heavier-bodied than warblers as seen when compared to the NOCA in photo page 6. The WETA has a short, thick-based bill and medium-length tail. As other adult male Western Tanagers, it is a yellow bird with black wings and a flaming orange-red head. The wings have two bold wingbars; the upper one yellow and the lower white. The back and tail are black.

CM6: Seen by many with good photos.

CM7: The photo of the bird provided by the viewer is also unmistakable in this case. The yellow body, dark wings with yellow wing bars and a bit of reddish coloration on the head with a thick, long bill on a cardinal-sized bird distinguish this bird as an adult nonbreeding male Western Tanager, as opposed to the Summer Tanager and Scarlet Tanager regularly seen in this area. Feeding on suet is also a common trait for this species in its normal range in western North America.