

**Subject:** OBRC Rare Bird Report  
**From:** Ross.w.wood@gmail.com  
**Date:** Sun, 16 Jan 2011 19:46:21 -0700  
**To:** obrc@ofo.ca

### OBRC Rare Bird Report

Date received: Sunday January 16, 2011  
 Received from: [Ross Wood \[Ross.w.wood@gmail.com\]](mailto:Ross.Wood@ofo.ca)  
 IP Address: [24.141.165.138](http://24.141.165.138)

### Reporting Observer

Name: Ross Wood  
 Address: 2424 Overton Drive  
 City: Burlington  
 Province: Ontario  
 Postal Code: L7P 4B5  
 Email: Ross.w.wood@gmail.com  
 Phone: (905)220-6987  
 Original finder's name and address if known: Myself, same as above.  
 Other observers' names and addresses: Ron Ridout  
 Mike Burrell  
 Brendan Toews  
 Ryan Rea- Ryanrea\_3@hotmail.com  
 Avery Nagy-MacArthur  
 Erika Hensch

### Report Details

Species,select one: Western Wood-Pewee  
 or other species not on list:  
 Number: 1  
 Age: beleived to be a hatch year bird  
 Sex: don't know  
 Date you saw it using this format: 25 January 2010: 27 August 2010  
 Time of day seen: 9:30am  
 Duration of observation (give times): it hung around all day and was present first thing on the 28th  
 First and last dates bird(s) known to be in area: 27 August 2010-28 August 2010  
 Exact location seen: Tip of Long Point, Norfolk ON.  
 Stayed by the house the whole time.  
 GPS if available:  
 Habitat:  
 Weather conditions: ranged between 15-25 degrees very little cloud and very light north breeze  
 Kind of lighting on bird: Full sun  
 Observer's distance from bird: as close a 2m  
 Optics used: Eagle Optics Rangers 10X42, Kowa TSN 883 spotting scope  
 Photographs taken?: Yes  
 Video taken?:  
 Illustration made?:  
 Date this report written: 16 January 2011

## General Observations

- 1) Circumstances of the observation      hurrying back to the house from the banding lab to grab some supplies when the bird was first heard, which stopped me in my tracks. Ryan Rea eventually came to see what was keeping me as I didn't want to leave the bird and loose it among the other Eastern Wood-pewees. Others then joined us and the bird remained in the area for the whole day and into the next morning.
- 2) Description.      First was heard making its harsh "peeer" call, which caused me to notice it. I found the bird perched about 4m up in a cottonwood. Sitting in the tree I could plainly see that it was a pewee by its darker grey colour, lack of any eye ring and dark grey breast band. I could see a difference in the 2 wing bars with the upper one being a little less obvious then the lower one. The lower mandible appeared to be nearly completely dark in colour, with only the slightest amount of pale near the base. The bird was calling regularly, with Ryan present I played the Western Wood-Pewee song off of my Sibley App. on my Iphone and the bird came straight into it landing within a couple feet above my head. The bird became very quite for a while after this making keeping track of it difficult as it was only calling once every 10 minutes or so. Others came out on a boat trip with supplies and were able to view it as it would come back to its favourite perch on a bare branch of a cottonwood. Come late afternoon it became quite vocal again, continuing with its very harsh slurred peeer call. It was seen perched in the same spot the following morning and heard calling only a few times before disappearing sometime late morning.
- 3) How were similar species eliminated?      Eastern Wood-Pewees were very abundant that day as well with both birds being able to be seen a lot of the time. The call was the most diagnostic feature, Easterns were also calling off and on most of the day with the typical "purree" ascending call. The amount of dark to the lower mandible was very extensive, where as most most Easterns that I see and handle have much less usually restricted to the front 50% of the bill. The lower wing bar was definitely more extensive then the upper one, unlike the Eastern Wood-Pewee with even wing bars. When seen together with an Eastern the Western appeared to be darker and greyer then the Eastern in the chest.
- 4) Experience with claimed species      I spent 4 months in 2008 in British Columbia where I would almost daily here and see them.  
I also a month in the winter of 2010 in Ecuador where I would see and hear both Eastern and Westerns very regularly.
- 5) Field guides/references consulted      Sibley, National Geographic, Pyle Identification of Norht American Birds Part 1.
- 6) Any additional commentary/analysis      As the bird was perched in direct sunlight most of the time when it was visible I feel that most pictures (at least the ones I have) don't represent the differences in the wing bars. I think the sun caused the white to over expose in most of my pictures, but I'm no photographer. 1 picture in particular where it appears to be a bit shaded eating an insect seems to give a better contrast in the wing bars.
- Description made from      Notes made after observation