

074-01-1996

ANHINGA- Male 5/15/96

Observer-August Mirabella
1443 Wheaton Ln.
N. Wales, Pa. 19454

Location-White's Mill, White's Mill Rd., Salford Twp., Pa.

Habitat-Headwaters of the mill pond where the stream exits a wooded area and becomes a woodland swamp. Many trees are standing in water. The pond is surrounded by woodland with one side very shallow with marshy vegetation. A beaver lodge was at the sight where the bird was first seen.

Optics-Naked eye at 15 feet & 7X42B Zeiss Binoculars as it soared and sat in a tree.

Duration-Approx. 15 minutes total

Conditions-Bright sun 11:30 to 12:30

Details-I flushed the bird at approx. 15' before I saw it. It was apparently sitting just above water level. As it took off I immediately saw the striking white upper wing markings and realized it was an Anhinga. I was not aware of the 30 reported in Maryland approximately a week or two earlier, so it was totally unexpected. It circled the pond several times and then passed directly in front of me at 30' and landed approx. 25' up in a tree along the stream at about 75' from me. In flight, the long out-stretched skinny neck, pointed bill, fanned out tail, and dark undersides were apparent. Compared to a cormorant, the tail was longer and flared out, and the neck and head looked longer and skinnier. I ran to contact other birders and when I returned didn't see the bird for about 15 minutes. It appeared circling again over the pond. After several passes, it again flew in front of me and headed upstream. By the time other birders arrived, it could not be found. However, two hours earlier Ralph Bardman, a local avid birder, had been walking along White's Mill Rd. He had apparently seen the bird soaring for approx. 10 minutes and saw it glide into the area where I flushed it. He noted a very steady flight as it soared, very long fanned out tail, and long skinny neck. As Anhinga was not expected, he assumed it was a cormorant. But when he heard later in the day of my sighting, he realized why the bird he saw was such a "strange" looking cormorant.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Anhinga ()

Date of Sighting: 15 May 1996 to 15 May 1996

Location: SALFORD TWP

County: MONTGOMERY

Observer(s): August Mirabella

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: August Mirabella

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C Haas

Date:

2-22-97