

074-01-1998

Anhingas in Delaware County
May 25, 1998

On May 25, 1998, I was sitting on my deck in Media, Delaware County, Pa relaxing on the couch. It was about 2:45PM and I had been viewing migrating birds for about an hour. When I looked up this time I saw three birds circling overhead with long, straight necks. My immediate thought was Sandhill Cranes, but then I noticed there were no legs extending beyond the tail. So I grabbed the binoculars and got on the birds and could tell instantly that they were Anhingas.

The birds were circling around in buteo fashion, but with long, straight, extended necks. The necks appeared much thinner and longer than a cormorant's neck. The birds were all dark gray or blackish in coloration. I didn't notice any of the birds having a tan or brownish throat so I assume all were males. The bills were long and thin like a heron's thus adding to the length of the neck and also to the straightness. The birds were making constant but fairly small circles with the birds alternately flapping and than an extended glide. The wings appeared long, thin and pointed. The tailed was long and fanned out, thinner at the base. All these characteristics gave the bird an appearance of a flying cross, even more so then the cross appearance of any loon because of the length of the wings.

The day was windy with clouds most of the morning and at 2:45PM the clouds were just starting to break up so I could view the birds against a clear blue sky and also against a backdrop of clouds.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al Susante". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation- Round One

Species: Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga)

Date of Sighting: 25 May 1998 to 25 May 1998

Location: MEDIA

County: DELAWARE COUNTY

Observer(s): Al Guarente

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: Al Guarente

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES Photo No Specimen No Recording No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman			X					
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
J. McWilliams			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
TOTALS			6					1
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6 / 0 / 1

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 9/19/02