

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

28 January 2002

David G. Washabaugh
3407 Horton Road
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Dear Dave,

Thank you for submitting documentation of the Anhinga you saw at Rose Tree Park on 26 April 1999. The Committee regrets that it is unable to accept the record, although it was such a close call that the record required two rounds of balloting for a decision.

In the final vote four of the seven members favored acceptance and three did not. The Committee's rules require acceptance by at least six members. The result was placement of the record in Class IV-A; "a record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer's identification; the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt." Two of those who voted not to accept felt that the possibility of a cormorant was not definitely eliminated, and the third felt that more details were needed in the description.

Non-acceptance does not imply that we believe the bird was not an Anhinga, but simply that the evidence is not sufficient to support the identification conclusively.

We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting reports on any future rarities you find.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

Record No. 074-01-1999

074-01-1999

RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: ANHINGA Date of this Observation: April 26, 1999

Date Found: April 26, 1999 Last Date Seen: April 26, 1999

Location: ROSETREE PARK HAWKWATCH (MAP ENCLOSED)

Township/City: ROSETREE / MEDIA County: DELAWARE

Person Writing this report: DAVID G. WASHBAUGH

Address: 3407 HORTON ROAD, NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA, 19073

Phone: (610) 353-2718

Other Observers: TOM McPARLAND, BETTY SWAN

Who found the bird first: TOM McPARLAND

Other documentation included: (Circle all appropriate items)(Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

N/A

Photograph

Audio Recording

Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored? N/A

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed—Please do not write on back of this form)

074-01-1999

On April 26 I prepared the following commentary for the record and will repeat it here intact .

I'm sure the Anhinga may raise some questions so let me describe what happened. At about 12:10 pm, Tom McParland picked up two birds at a great distance to the left of Crooked Tree.(South) The wind was coming from that direction at what speed I'm not sure. The day was clear, the temperature was in the mid 60's.

While he followed them with the glasses,I trained my scope on them.(30 Nikon) As we watched the birds come closer, we noticed them circling in unison with a very occasional flap,using thermals to retain lift and always in unison, not one behind the other. The neck was long and skinny and showed no head. The tail was equally long and spade-like in the shape of an isosceles triangle, narrow at the base. The birds came right over the Hawkwatch heading North. We tried to make Cormorants out them but that didn't work for any of us.They appeared blacker the closer they came and retained that color as they passed. Tom also viewed them in the scope. I knew they weren't birds we'd seen this year. They continued to move through soaring in unison.

If you have questions, please let us know.' The only thing I neglected to add from my original notes was the time length of observation and that was a good ten minutes.

It should be noted that the location of the hawkwatch provides us with a wide sky (180 degrees) for viewing.

All the best and Great Birding !!!!

Dave Washabaugh

Today's date - June 30,1999

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga)

Date of Sighting: 26 April 1999 to 26 April 1999

Location: ROSE TREE PARK

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): Dave Washabaugh, Tom McParland, Betty Swan

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Dave Washabaugh

Written Description: Yes

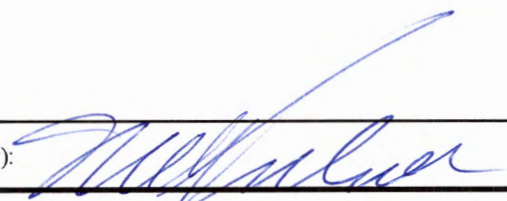
Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes				X				
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			5	2				
DECISION								

Comments: 5/2/0 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 12/3/00

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round Two

Species: Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga)

Date of Sighting: 26 April 1999 to 26 April 1999

Location: ROSE TREE PARK

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): Dave Washabaugh, Tom McParland, Betty Swan

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Dave Washabaugh

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

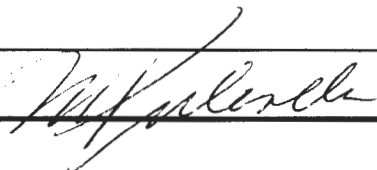
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess				X				
R. Ickes				X				
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			4	3				
DECISION				X				

Comments: 4/3

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 11/8/01