

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
613 Howard Ave.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

074-03-2003

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga)  
Subspecies (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 2 SEX(ES) male, possibly female also

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): adult, possibly immature also

DATE OF OBSERVATION 23 September 2003 TIME 1145

LOCATION (city, borough, township) East Brunswick Township

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) North Lookout at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name David Barber  
Address Acopian Center for Conservation Learning, 410 Summer Valley Rd.  
City Orwigsburg State PA ZIP 17961  
e-mail (optional) barber@hawk.mtn.org phone (optional) 570-943-3411 x105

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):  
\_\_\_\_\_

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) rock out cropping on mountain ridge

DISTANCE TO BIRD 100-150m

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) There was blue sky w/ ~15% cloud cover, winds were out of WNW, sun was behind me and to the right.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Zeiss 10x40 binoculars

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): birds were soaring so I was only able to see the undersides.

Both birds had long necks which were slightly bent (similar to a heron), the tail was fan shaped, i.e. wider at the end than at the base, the tail stuck out almost the same amount from the body as the head and neck, giving the impression of a very long tail, legs were not visible and didn't extend past the end of the tail, wings were slightly rounded.

Plumage: one bird was completely dark, appearing almost black, the other bird was dark/black with a distinct line on the upper breast where the plumage on the upper breast and neck was a tan color. This was a sharp line and the light color did not blend at all with the dark color.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

**BEHAVIOR** (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) Both birds were first observed soaring above the lookout in tight circles. The birds would occasionally give several quick flaps & continue soaring. The birds eventually soared very high as they drifted in a southeasterly direction.

**VOCALIZATIONS**

None heard

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:**

Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographer/recorder/illustrator:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

**IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:**

General condition \_\_\_\_\_

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

**SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES** (how you eliminated others) Since the legs did not extend past the end of the tail I ruled out a heron. The plumage also did not match a heron. Plumage also ruled out double-crested cormorant. Moreover, the behavior of soaring & quick flapping is not consistent with migrating cormorants. Neck of cormorants also do not have kinks in them as they fly. They extend their head and neck straight out from the body.

**DISCUSSION** – Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

**PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES**

Having lived in FL for 4 years I am very familiar with Anhingas and have seen them soaring numerous times. As a result at Hawk Mt I have observed many flock of double-crested cormorants.

**ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION?** (why or why not) Yes, the behavior & jizz & plumage are the same as other soaring Anhingas I've seen and very different from the cormorants I've seen migrating

**REFERENCES CONSULTED:**

During observation none

After observation Sibley guide to birds

**DATE OF THIS REPORT:** 30 September 2003

**SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER** David A. Baul

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Date of Sighting: 23 September 2003 to 23 September 2003

Location: HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY

County : BERKS

Observer(s): David Barber

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: David Barber

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut			X					
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

9/16/04