

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
nickpulcinella@comcast.net

074-01-2005

SPECIES (common and scientific name) ANHINGA ANHINGA anhinga
Subspecies, if known _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) FEMALE

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

DATE OF OBSERVATION 9/19/05 TIME 1:38

LOCATION (city, borough, township) FOREST GROVE, BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP, BUCKS CO.

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) BUCKINGHAM HAWK WATCH, SLACK'S FARM
FOREST GROVE ROAD

OBSERVER REPORTING:
Name MARYA HALDERMAN
Address 1160 SWAMP RD.
City RUSHLAND State PA ZIP 18956
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

MARYA@PHILOMATH.COM 215/598-0577

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):
KIRK + LOIS MOUTON, GERRY DEWABBE, GEORGE ROWE, AND
OTHERS. ABOUT 10 PEOPLE GOT GREAT LOOKS.

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

DISTANCE TO BIRD 1000 - 2000 Feet? VISIBLE WITH NAKED EYE + IDENTIFIABLE WITH BINOCULARS

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) CLEAR SKIES, NW WIND,
THE SUN WAS NOT A FACTOR (BEHIND US).
CUMULOUS CLOUDS.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED LEICA ULTRAVID 10X42

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):

THE BIRD WAS LARGE, HAD A BRIGHT WHITE
LONG SNAKE-LIKE NECK, THE THROAT AREA ALSO WAS
BRIGHT WHITE. THE WINGS AND TAIL WERE BLACK. THE
WINGS WERE LONG, WIDE AND POINTED. THE TAIL WAS
LONG. THE BEAK WAS THIN, POINTED + LONG. I DIDN'T
NOTICE THE LEGS.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) THE BIRD SOARED
AND CIRCLED OVER OUR HAWK WATCH FOR ABOUT 3
MINUTES BEFORE FLYING OFF SOUTH.

VOCALIZATIONS NONE

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 of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

A CORMORANT WOULD NOT HAVE HAD THE BRIGHT
WHITE NECK + THROAT WITH THE SNAKE-LIKE SHAPE, IT
SOARED - MUCH UNLIKE A CORMORANT - AND THINNESS.

A CORMORANT WOULD SEEM CHUNKIER + WOULD HAVE FLAPPED
DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:
RECENT HURRICANES COULD HAVE BLOWN IT FROM ITS NORMAL
TERRITORY.

AFTER THE FACT WE LEARNED THAT A FEMALE
ANKINGA HAD BEEN SEEN BY THE MILITIA HILL HAWK WATCH
A FEW DAYS EARLIER. MILITIA HILL IS 20 MINUTES AWAY
(Please use an additional page if necessary) IN "HAWK FLIGHT" TIME.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

I SAW THEM IN
VERACRUZ MEXICO MIGRATING BY THE HUNDREDS IN
THE "RIVER OF RAPTORS" OCT. 2004 WITH HAWK MOUNTAIN.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) YES

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation THE SIBLEY GUIDE
After observation _____

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 9/21/05

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Mary B. Halderman



**CAMBRIDGE BEACHES
BERMUDA**

TELEPHONE: (441) 234-0331



PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT

074-01-2005

SPECIES: Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga)

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS: one

SEX: female

AGE AND PLUMAGE: Adult female breeding plumage.

DATE AND TIME OF OBSERVATION: Monday 09/19/05 at 1:35 PM EDT

LOCATION: Forest Grove, Bucks County, PA

EXACT SITE: BroadwingSEPT Buckingham Hawk Watch, located on the farm property of Frederick J. Slack, at the corner of Forest Grove Road and Upper Mountain Road. GPS N40 17.681 W075 03.865.

BroadwingSEPT is a series of eleven hawk watches, spaced approximately five miles apart, running in a northwest to southeast line at an angle perpendicular to the theoretical angle of migration of 242 degrees for Broad-winged Hawks in this region. This is the twelfth straight year, dates are September 13-23.

OBSERVERS REPORTING:

Kirk & Lois Moulton
POB 1431
North Wales, PA 19454
bwsept@attglobal.net
215-699-7966

OTHER OBSERVERS: Marya Haldeman, Carolyn Vogt, Jim Fleming, Russ Neiger, Gene Petro, Jerry Dewaghe, and George Rowe.

HABITAT: Open farmland in mid Bucks County south of Doylestown.

DISTANCE TO BIRD: This bird was about 2500 feet up, underneath low cumulus clouds in light west winds. Temperature in the low 80's. A cold front had gone through the evening before. The air was clear.

VIEWING CONDITIONS: Excellent. We were getting many small kettles of Broad-winged Hawks and were able to see colors and plumage on the Broadwings. The clouds were low cumulus, about 40-50% cloud cover. The Anhinga was first seen to our east, crossed in front of us to our near northeast with the sun behind us and over our right shoulder, then to our north and northwest. Viewing time was about 30-45 seconds.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: Swarovski EL 10x42 binoculars and Swarovski ATS80-HD with 30W eyepiece.

DESCRIPTION: Demonstrated the typical flying cross silhouette, the neck was long and held straight. The tail was thin and very long – as long as the neck, perhaps longer. Both the neck and tail were each longer than the body. The neck was gray-white, with the white getting stronger as you got closer to the chest, with the white extending into the upper chest and then stopping abruptly. The lower chest and belly, tail, and under wings were very dark, almost black. The upper wings, as seen when the Anhinga circled in the thermal showed white in the shoulder and upper secondary wing coverts, while the rest of the wing was black, as well as the back and upper tail. This white in the upper wing covert (which separates this from a juvenile Anhinga we believe) was seen by Kirk when the scope was first put on the bird. Also in the scope, you could see a dark upper neck and especially darker head. In powered flight, the wings were long and pointy. When soaring, the wings appeared wider and rounder. This bird was big, almost twice the size of a Broad-winged Hawk. Field marks were called out by Kirk Moulton while the bird was in flight for all observers to see and confirm.

BEHAVIOR: The Anhinga was flying with the Broadwings. We were seeing the bird move from the thermal under the white cloud, then crossing through the blue over to the next thermal, again with the cloud as background, etc. For the most part, it was flying with powered flight, flapping fairly fast, with stiff wing beats, almost falcon-like. It was a strong flier. Occasionally, it would soar under the thermals along with the Broadwings, and when soaring, the tail flared a bit. The flight direction was NW for a bit, then SW with the Broadwings.

VOCALIZATIONS: None.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE: Please see the attached drawing that was made immediately after the sighting and before consulting the field guides.

SEPERATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES: Easily separated from Double-crested Cormorant with its long straight extended neck, long thin tail, and soaring flight in the thermals. Plumage is distinctive as a female Anhinga, with the white extending only to the extreme upper chest area, abruptly changing to black, with no white on its belly. The neck was long, thin, and straight, unlike a Cormorant which is thicker and more crooked. Bill was long, straight and pointy, i.e. not hooked.

DISCUSSION: This sighting followed 5 days of mostly SW winds and near tropical conditions as warm humid air was pumped up from the south. For days, there had been a stalled cold front approaching from the west, and Hurricane Ophelia stalled just east of North Carolina. Finally, Ophelia moved out to sea, producing the good flight conditions on the hawk watch on Monday 9/19/05, the day of the sighting.

Also, there have been several reports of Anhinga in the region this year. On September 10th, one was seen at Militia Hill. I understand that Andy Fayer will be submitting a report. Also this year, in Raubsville, PA, Arlen Koch saw one over her house in the spring. Also, on 9/16/05 an Anhinga was seen at the SMRR hawk watch near Detroit, MI, followed by a sighting, presumably the same bird as the SMRR bird, at Holiday Beach, Ontario on 9/23/05. Also, about 10 years ago, we were present for an Anhinga sighting in mid September at the Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch in Conneticut.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES: We have had a lot of experience with this and related species. We have over 10 trips to southern Florida - including the everglades and the keys. We also have traveled extensively to Texas, the Caribbean, and Central America. We have been active birders since 1975 - with over 800 ABA and 5000 World birds on our life lists. We know this is a rare bird in Pennsylvania, but it is a straight forward ID for anyone who has seen it so many times.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION: This is a rock solid ID. It cannot be confused with anything else. We saw it well, as did the other observers.

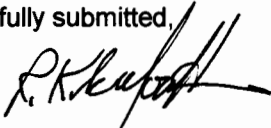

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation: All notes and drawings done before consulting field guides. Then the National Geographic Field Guides to the Birds of North America 3rd edition that we had in the car was consulted.

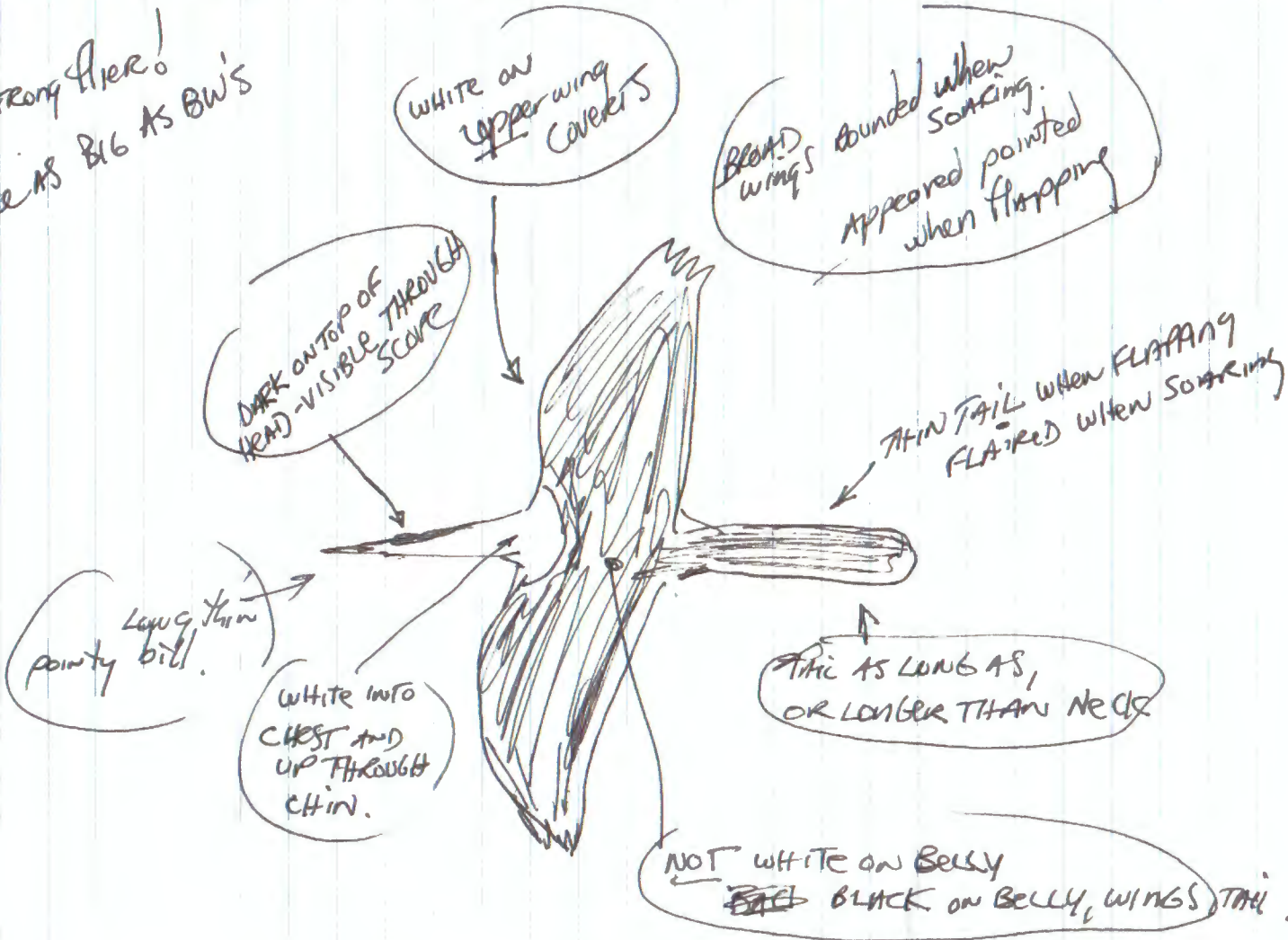
After observation: At home, Sibley Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America, The Sibley Guide to Birds, and The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds.

DATE OF THIS REPORT: September 25, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


R. Kirk Moulton

Lois P. Moulton

STRONG Flier!
ACUMEN TWICE AS BIG AS BW'S



WHITE ON
UPPER WING
COVERTS

BROAD
WINGS

rounded when
soaring.
appeared pointed
when flapping

DARK ON TOP OF
(HEAD) - VISIBLE THROUGH
SCARF

LONG THIN
POINTY BILL.

WHITE INTO
CHEST AND
UP THROUGH
CHIN.

THIN AS LONG AS,
OR LONGER THAN NECK

THIN TAIL WHEN FLAPPING
FLAILED WHEN SOARING

NOT WHITE ON BELLY
~~BUT~~ BLACK ON BELLY, WINGS, TAIL.

field makes called out on flight
by KEE. & everyone saw the marks

A. dr

sop

mva

1/2

1/4

on
ell

1/2
1/4
1/8

MONDAY 9-19-05

Twice

ALABAMA WATERS

MOSTLY SUNNY, NIGHTS IN 80'S, light + variable winds

HARTFORD

WEST WINDS 5-10

WORCESTER

70'S WEST 5-10

ON BUCKINGHAM

BLUE SKIES UNTIL NOON WHEN CUMULUS STARTED

FINDING KETTLES. 40 + 100 + 50 + etc

NO SINGLE BIRDS

they are organized and moving thru.
must have missed many kettles

white on
upper breast
dark
on
wings

field notes curled out in flight
by them - everyone says so

pleasant valley

female Anhinga

long white neck
long thin tail

long pointy wings contrasting trailing edges

flapping between thermal

circling soaring in thermal

silver on forewings when banking

large
FLYING CROSS

cannot lose
sight

NOT A CONVENTIONAL
WHICH IS THE ONLY
THING IT COULD BE CONFUSED BY
1:30 BUT IT WINS
THIS long tail.

high with broad wings
under cumulus clouds

pointy
wing
tip

and pointed
scurry
wing
tip

A. day or two after aphelia.

convuls -
50% cloud cover (low)

moves cloud base to cloud base.

loony downy

kirk + lat's mountain

marry + baldman

carolyn vaight

Jin Fleming

ross meyer

gene petra

gauge rowe

beck downy

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga)

Date of Sighting: 19 September 2005 to 19 September 2005

Location: FOREST GROVE

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): Kirk Moulton, Lois Moulton, et al

Date of Submission: 2005

Submitted by: Kirk Moulton, Lois Moulton, Myra Halderman

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

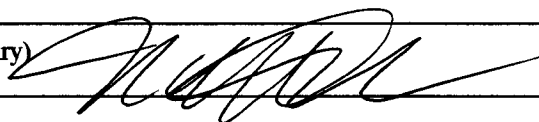
Specimen: No

Recording: No

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

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 7/24/06