

Mr John Tramontano
70 Old Dublin Pike K4
Doylestown, PA 18901

March 15, 2009

John,

Thank you for your submission of an Anhinga in Bucks County at Cross Keys Plaza from September 7, 2008. The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee appreciates the time and labor involved in submitting your record.

After two rounds of voting, the sighting was unfortunately not accepted. Although the committee members felt that the bird was probably an Anhinga, and that the description was suggestive of an Anhinga, there were still some reasonable doubts about the ID.

Your sighting of an Anhinga could very well be correct, unfortunately the committee has to go by the written description and some members felt that description fell a little short of a positive identification.

Thanks again for your report and please don't let this discourage you from future submissions. The committee depends on reports like yours to further the knowledge of Pennsylvania ornithological studies.

Sincerely,

Al Guarente
Chairman

Record # 074-01-2008

Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report Form

Species (common & scientific): Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga)

Number of Individuals: One Sex: unknown

Age(s) & Plumage: Unknown (1-2 yrs. to adult plumage) Immature

Date Seen: 7 September 2008 Time: 0650

Where Seen (Town/County): Doylestown, Bucks County

Exact Location: Over Cross Keys Plaza

Observer Reporting:

Name: John Tramontano

Address: 70 Old Dublin Pike, K4, Doylestown, 18901

Email: docbio936@hotmail.com

Telephone (optional): (267) 247-5224

Other Observers: None

Distance to the Bird: About 100 Feet

Viewing Conditions: Clear, 68F, rising sun behind my right shoulder.

Optical Equipment Used: B & L 8X42 waterproof

Habitat: Suburban business strip - overhead

Description: As I stood in the parking lot facing North, I noticed a lone, goose-sized bird approaching me from the West. However, the body mass seemed much less than that of a Canada Goose and the wings were longed and more pointed with a lighter beat. It initially was about ¼ mile away flying directly at me. By the time I got my binoculars out of the car & was viewing the bird through them it was only a few hundred feet away. With the sunlight behind me I could see that this was not a waterfowl at all! Cormorant flashed through my mind for a second. Then I saw the long, brown-streaky body preceded by a long, slender neck and a long, pointed stiletto-shaped bill. There was no hook at the end. It was not a cormorant of any species! The broad tail, narrow at the base, was fanned for a second when overhead. Its head turned from side to side as it continued a gradual incline in its flight path. Although I've never seen this plumage in the species it was an Anhinga! The long, but narrow wings were distinctive unlike those of cormorants.

(over)

2.

Behavior: The wing beat was not that of a cormorant, stiff, steady & either straight or bowed. In this bird's more buoyant flight the outer wing, specifically the primary tips flicked up & down with each beat more than the rest. It was a lighter flight as well as a lighter, slimmer bird, overall. The long neck & long, straight, pointed bill were unique from any cormorant species.

Vocalizations and Supporting Evidence: None

Separation from Similar Species: See under Description and Behavior.

Discussion: None, per se., as I was alone & enroute to breakfast at the local diner, the Bread Crumb. (highly recommended)
NOTEWORTHY; This was the morning after the passing of Tropical Storm Hanna. It probably spent the night in a local pond & was seen headed east toward the Delaware R.

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species:

I've seen dozens of Adult Anhingas, though never any immatures. Their profile and flight are very different from cormorants. All cormorants use the inner and outer wing as one. All have hooked bills and a strong rowing wingbeat.

Are you positive of your ID?

Absolutely yes! I'm a very keen observer of birds and have been or over 50 years. I'm a retired Ornithologist, but still an active birder with 20/20 vision, fortunately.

References: None during the observation of about 5 minutes.
After: For the immature plumage I used the National Geographic Guide to N.A.

Date of Report: 9 September 2008

Signature of Observer: *John R. Framontano*
Copy to Angie Mirabella

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Anhinga Anhinga anhinga

Date of Sighting: 7 September 2008 to 7 September 2008

County : BUCKS

Location : DOYLESTOWN

Observer(s): John Tramontano

Date of Submission: 2008

Submitted by: John Tramontano

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

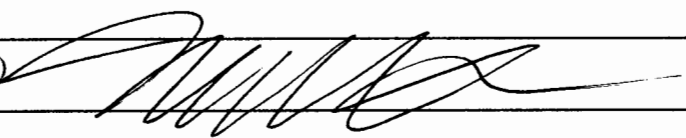
Specimen: No

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					
T. Johnson					X			
B. Coulter			X					
C. Rutt				X				
J. Heller					X			
G. Malosh				X				
TOTALS			3	2	2			
DECISION				X				

Comments: 3/4

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/3/09