

PA Rare Bird Report

074-01-2013

Submission Date	2013-11-03 20:06:56
Observer's Name	Nick Bolgiano
E-mail	nbolgiano@pennswoods.net
Phone	814-234-2746
Observer's Address	Street Address: 711 W. Foster Ave City: State College State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 16801 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	David Kyler
Species (Common Name)	Anhinga
Species (Scientific Name)	Anhinga anhinga
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	female
Observation Date and Time	11-03-2013 1:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/pa/view/checklist?subID=S15557978
County	Huntingdon-Mifflin border
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Miller Twp in Huntingdon, Menno in Mifflin
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Stone Mt hawk watch
GPS coordinates of sighting	N 40.57178, W -77.82636
Habitat	it flew SW along Stone Mt and was seen from the Stone Mt hawk watch
Distance to bird	the bird was very high above, being barely visible to the naked eye.
Viewing conditions	excellent. Although high overhead, we had a good view for 10-15 sec
Optical equipment used	both observers used Swaroski 10x42
Description	A female anhinga flew over the Stone Mt hawk watch, seen

by Dave Kyler and me at 1:30 pm. Its neck was long and held straight out and formed a triangle from its bill to breast. The tan of its head extended back to just past the leading edge of the wing, with a sharp delineation with its black body. Its tail projected back as long as its neck projected forward and the tail was slightly fanned. It flew with just its wingtips moving, like a peregrine sometimes does. It flew straight along the spine of the ridge toward the SW.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

flying SW along the ridge

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

We separated from double-crested cormorant by the way it held its neck straight out, the shape and length of the neck, the length of the tail, and the sharp demarcation between the tan of the neck and the black of the body. A cormorant doesn't that neck shape or length, the sharp delineation in color, or the length of tail.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Dave Kyler and I discussed the key points immediately after and the description is from my notes that I took. A female anhinga was seen at the same site two years before and also flying SW. Dave was present both times. The 2013 bird was 2x as high. I had a good camera with a 400 mm lens, but I couldn't find it in my viewfinder, being small against a blue sky.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

yes, for reasons given above

After

Sibley

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