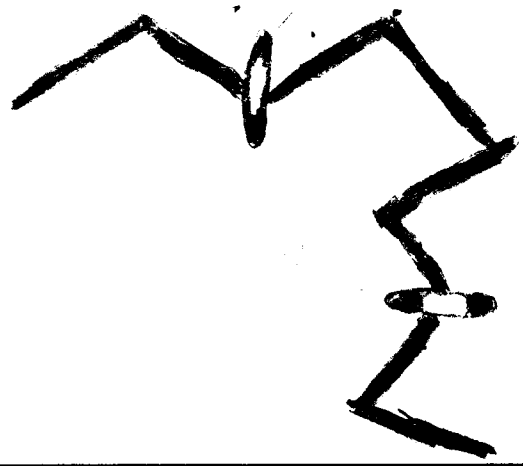


Sept. 22, 1989
5:15 pm.



075-01-1989

Tru McFinnie

R.O. #2 Box 542 Mt. Joy, Pa, 17552

717-658-8782

Picture
on back
→

075-01-1989

Notes written at
my request on
29 Sep 89.

R. Schwab

1989

Bob,

On Friday, September 22, at approximately 5:15 p.m. my daughter Erin and I were going west on Mount Pleasant Road in Mount Joy Township. The weather was partly sunny and the winds were very strong from the east or southeast. On the right hand side of the road a big bird appeared low just above the corn field. It was being blown along and was flying fast and erratic, almost like the flight of a swallow, dipping and diving. The bird was very dark (black) all over with no other distinguishing color as best as I could tell without field glasses. The body was long and rather slender from head to tail but the feature that struck me most was the birds very long, very slender, and very crooked wings. It was like nothing I had ever seen. Its wings were too narrow for a turkey vulture or any other bird that size that I could think of. It was not a bird of prey, the wings were much narrower. The crooked elbow in the wings ~~was~~ was much more pronounced than in an osprey or when a vulture sets its wings in a glide. The wings were not pulled in like that either.

Erin saw the bird at the same time I did. It flew within 100 - 150 feet of us. We were about 150 yards from our house so I drove home, Erin jumped out of the car, ran in and got binoculars. We then drove west again on Mount Pleasant Road and spotted the bird, not continuously, for the next half mile or so. At one point Erin got the binocular on it, the bird was higher now, and she said to me, "it looks like it has white on the belly." There are homes

075 01-1989

along the north side of the road and the bird was obscured by either homes or trees at one point and we lost the bird. We drove down the road a little ways in hopes of picking the bird up again but we failed to find it.

There are three things I am absolutely sure of:

1. The bird was not a turkey vulture, great blue heron, or eagle. The wing span was greater than, or at the least, as great as any of these big birds.

2. The wings are what attracted my attention. Again, they were very, very long and very, very narrow. They were pointed and had very prominent elbows.

3. The bird was black and its body was not heavy.



Linda McKinnon
R.D. 2, Box 542
Mount Joy, PA 17552
(717) 653-8782

075-01-1989

Notes written at
my request on
29 Sep 89.

R. Schatzky

Bob,

on Friday Sept. 22, 1989 at about 5:15 pm.
we were driving west on Mt. Pleasant Road.
In the north sky a big, dark, bird came
whooshing by. I yelled at mom to follow it.
We drove home and I grabbed the keys to
unlock the house and get the binoculars.
We drove west looking at the sky. We had lost
it. Suddenly I spotted it. I yelled at mom
to pull over. She couldn't because of the traffic.
I hung out the window of the minivan and
located it in my binoculars for an instant.
Its wings were very narrow and crooked. The
whole body was dark except for the white belly.
Its wingspan was very large and it was bigger
than a vulture. I didn't notice the tail. We traveled
farther west but finally lost it. The sky
was a sparkling blue with fluffy white clouds
strewn about. There was a strong wind from the
east or southeast. The bird was very acrobatic
in the air and very fast. It did loops and
dives like a swallow or a sparrow-hawk. It
reminded me of an nature program. I knew
deep down this was a bird I had never seen before
and maybe will never see again.

Chris McKinne

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Magnificent Frigatebird**

Date of Sighting: **Sept 22, 1989**

Observer(s): **Linda & Erin McKinne**

Date of Submission: **1989 Lancaster**

Submitted by: **Linda & Erin McKinne**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater		X					
B. Haas				X			
F. Haas						X	
R. Leberman				X			
G. McWilliams				X			
S. Santner				X			
P. Schwalbe	~~~~~						
TOTALS		1		4		1	
DECISION				X			

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

11-10-90