

Rec'd 11/21/92

163-01-1991

POPC

REPORT OF AN UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES AND/OR HIGH NUMBERS

CBC Name Bald Eagle S.P. Date 22 Dec 91 Compiler H.Henderson

SPECIES Black Vulture, Coragyps atratus

Observer writing account Glenna & Paul Schwalbe Date 29 Dec 91

Date of observation 22Dec91 Location Beech Creek, Clinton & Centre Co's PA

Conditions under which observation was made: We were traveling in our car, going east toward Beech Creek on PA 150, at 2:23 p.m., when we saw a dark bird soaring toward us over Beech Creek. The bird was about 200 feet in the air. It was quite large and had an obvious dihedral. We knew we had a Vulture and pulled over into a parking space to look at it. We put our glasses on it thinking it was a Turkey Vulture, which we knew would be good bird for the Christmas Count. To our surprise it wasn't a TV, so we jumped out of the car for an unobstructed view. The sky was clear with the sun behind us a little to our left, there had been a good breeze all afternoon. The bird continued to come toward us, veered to the south (right) and disappeared over some trees. While in view it interrupted its soaring only on two occasions, flapping quickly three times, then continuing its soaring. The duration of the observation was about 90 seconds. Even though it was an easily identified bird, we immediately and independently, without discussing what we were writing, wrote notes of what we had seen. The two of us were the only observers. When first seen the bird was over the town of Beech Creek in Clinton Co., it then flew SW across the stream named Beech Creek into Centre Co. We failed to find the bird again even with careful search of adjacent areas. The following description is taken directly from the notes mentioned above.

Description: The following is all but a direct quote from our two sets of notes. -- A vulture, dihedral wings, short tail, rounded, fanned. All black except for silvery color on the under side of the primaries (palms), which were extended like fingers - lots of space between individual shafts. Black head. Soared without flapping except for three flaps in a row on two occasions. Large black bird with dihedral wings and white palms. Flapping three times and glide. --

Similar species: The Turkey Vulture is the species that could most easily be confused with the Black Vulture in Pa. Of course it seldom flaps in the same manner, its secondaries as well as its primaries are silvery underneath, has a long tail and it's head is red (except for the immature). The two eagles are larger, fly with level wings with different underwing patterns, and have much larger heads.

Optical equipment: We used a Leitz 8 X 40B Trinovid and a B & L 8 X 42 Elite.

Record No.: 163-01-1991

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Black Vulture**

Date of Sighting: **22 December 1991 to 22 December 1991**

Observer(s): **Paul Schwalbe, Glenna Schwalbe**

Date of Submission: **1992 Clinton**

Submitted by: **Paul Schwalbe, Glenna Schwalbe**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas		X					
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS		1	6				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*B. Haas*

Date:

*2-27-93*