

168-01-1991

May 27, 1991

Pennsylvania Birds  
2469 Hammertown Road  
Narvon, Pa. 17555

Monroe County

County?  
Better location

To Whom It May Concern:

On May 24, at about 7:30 a.m., I was the lone observer of a Swallow-tailed Kite. The exact location was along a fire road which leads from the western edge of the town of Jonas southwestward almost to the eastern portion of Penn Forest Reservoir.

The land slopes down at this point; the bird was not flying particularly high, and was approaching from ahead and a bit to the left, so my initial view was rather frontal. What struck me immediately was the whiteness of the bird, and with my binoculars I caught a glimpse of black contrasting strongly with that white. Also, in that first, quick look this bird appeared slim, with rapid, though shallow wingbeats.

The bird disappeared among the trees at my left. My mind still hadn't registered "KITE!", but something told me I had something unusual. I threw down my bicycle, raced to the other side of the road, and looked quickly in the direction I'd last seen the bird.

Though moving away toward the east, I was fortunate as the bird suddenly banked and I clearly saw the white underwings with the black linings; I saw the white head and chest and belly; and, the long, forked tail which seemed to be rippling a bit in the air as the bird flew. It was definitely a Swallow-tailed Kite. I have seen the species several times in Florida, and as a migrant in Costa Rica.

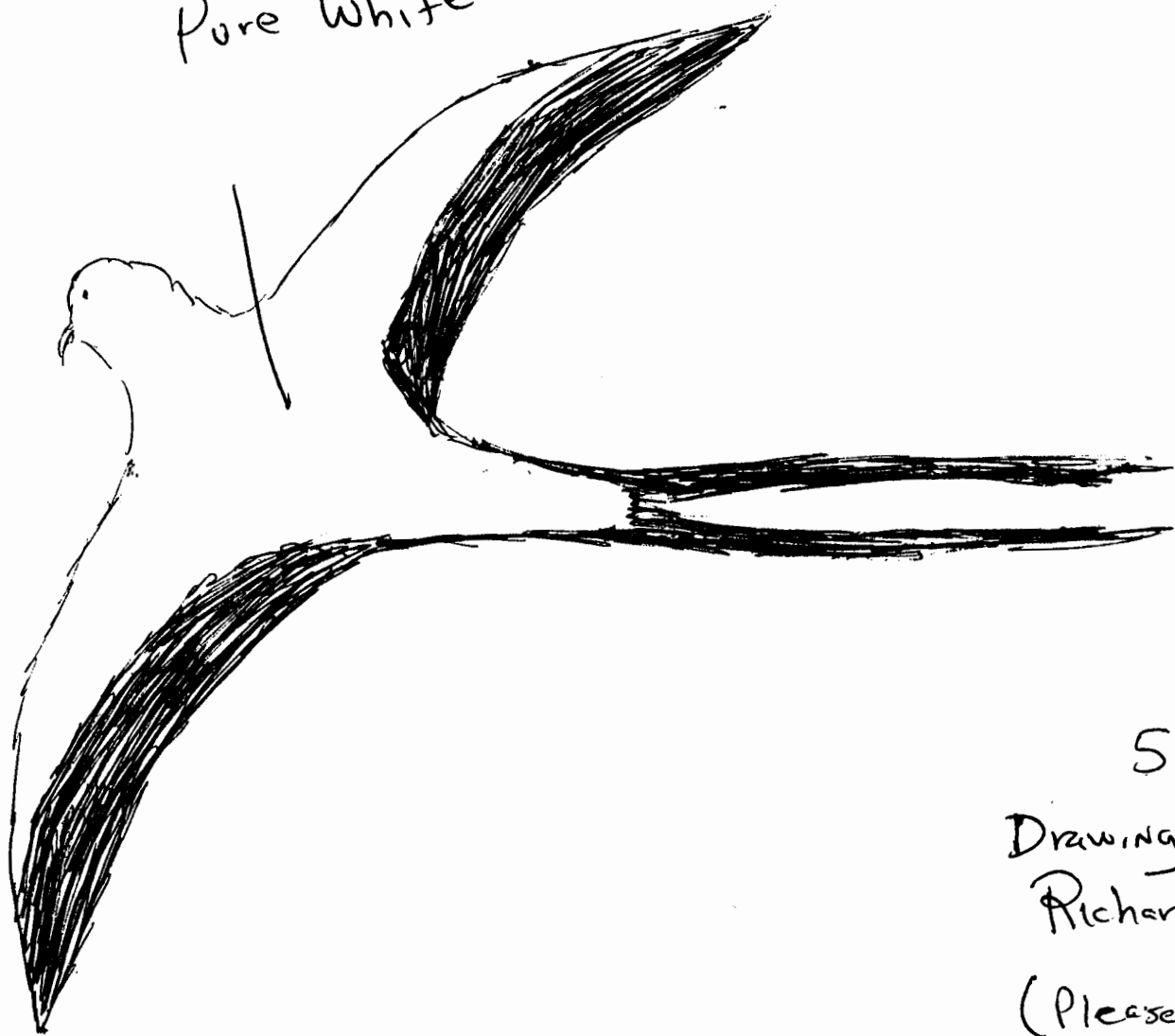
Truly unexpected.

Unfortunately, the bird did not linger. I went back late the next day, and early on the day after that. No bird. I am not surprised as the bird I saw was not circling around; it seemed to be coming from Penn Forest, and was flying with direct, determined flaps. I guess the Poconos doesn't measure up to the Everglades!

Anyway, I am submitting a sketch (Beware: I am no threat to John James Audubon) of what I saw.

Yours truly,  
*Richard Zain Eldeen*  
Richard Zain Eldeen  
115 Henry St. #2D  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

Pure white



5/24/91

Drawing executed by  
Richard Zain Eldeen

(Please do not snicker)

Record No.: 168-01-1991

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: American Swallow-tailed Kite

Date of Sighting: May 24, 1991

Observer(s): Richard ZainEldeen

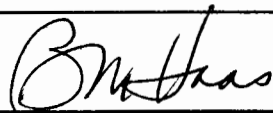
Date of Submission: 1991

Submitted by: Richard ZainEldeen

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			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

11-6-91