



SWALLOW-TAILED KITE
168-01-2005 OTOBARO Creek.
LANCASTER, CO 3/13/2005
TAM AMICO



168-02-2005

SPECIES: (common and scientific names) SWALLOW TAIL KITE, ELANOIDES FORFICATUS

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS: ONE

DESCRIBE PLUMAGE: COULDN'T PICK OUT COLORS LOOKING UP IN THE SKY, BUT COULD DEFINITELY SEE THE FORKED TAIL, SIZE OF BIRD AND METHOD OF FLYING

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 4/17/05 EXACT TIME: APPROX. 10AM

LOCATION (boro, township, county): BUTLER TOWNSHIP, BUTLER COUNTY, PA

EXACT SITE OF OBSERVATION (name of street, address of house, etc.) MY FRONT YARD AT 214 WOODLAWN ROAD, BUTLER (MERIDIAN), PA

OBSERVER REPORTING (name, address, city, state, zip, email): JOHN D. WEST, 214 WOODLAWN RD, BUTLER, PA 16001

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw the bird with you): ONLY ME

HABITAT (environment coming from going to if flying): SERIES OF SMALL PONDS DOWN A SMALL VALLEY, FLYING UP THE VALLEY EAST TO WEST, WET AREA.

DISTANCE TO BIRD: 40 TO 60 FEET

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): BRIGHT MORNING

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED IF ANY: NONE

DESCRIPTION OF THE BIRD (use as much detail as you observed: size relative to other bird flying, body shape, proportions, colors, and pattern of plumage, bill, eye and leg characteristics; other relevant features of this individual bird): DEFINITE TAIL OF A SWALLOW TAIL. IT WAS FOLLOWING BEHIND A HAWK BY 20 OR 30 FEET AND WAS LARGER THAN THE HAWK. IT FLEW IN A FLOATING FASHION. WE HAD BROAD WING HAWKS NESTING IN OUR AREA AT THE TIME AND THE HAWK COULD HAVE BEEN A BROAD TAIL, I WAS FOCUSED ON THE SWALLOW TAIL.

SEPARATION FROM OTHER SPECIES (how you eliminated other species; how did you know the bird?; anything else relevant to your observation?): WHEN I SAW THE TAIL, AND THE WAY IT FLEW I KNEW IT WASN'T A SECOND HAWK

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES (where, when, how long?): I SAW A

SWALLOW TAIL KITE ONE OTHER TIME. IT WAS IN 1992 IN CORKSCREW
SANCTUARY IN FLORIDA

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not?): YES,
BECAUSE OF THE TAIL, SIZE AND METHOD OF FLYING

REFERENCES CONSULTED (during the observation, after the observation):
PETERSON'S RIGHT AFTER THE OBSERVATION.

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 5/8/05

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER: JOHN D. WEST

168-01-2005
Swallow-Tailed Kite

Nick Pulcinella

From: "Bob Schutsky" <info@birdtreks.com>
To: "dan brauning" <DBrauning@state.pa.us>; "jerry mcwilliams" <JerryMcW@AOL.COM>; "nick pulcinella" <nickpulcinella@comcast.net>; "frankandbarb haas" <fbhaas@ptd.net>; <Jacoulson@aol.com>
Cc: "jack hubley" <jhubley@hearst.com>; "tom amico" <tamico@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2005 6:40 PM
Subject: Swallow-tailed Kite: Collection Data

Dan, Jerry, Nick, Jennifer, and Frank:

Jim Binder at Middle Creek was really excited about receiving the Swallow-tailed Kite today--he planned to take get it to the taxidermist in Newmanstown as soon as possible, maybe tomorrow. He needed to call the vet in McKean first.

Here is all of the collection data, just so some other people have it for the record. I have a disk of all the photos that Tom Amico took--who would like to have that? I will write to the folks that found it, tell them that the bird will be on display at Middle Creek, and thank them again for their interest and efforts.

Species: Swallow-tailed Kite, adult

Found by: Connie Price and her husband (name?)

Phone: 717-682-7535

Address: 547 Pumping Station Road

Kirkwood, Colerain Township

Lancaster County, PA

Date found: 13 March 2005

Time found: 4 PM; bird was not seen at that spot when they rode by earlier at 2 PM.

Habitat: Mature White Pine grove, 50 feet from the West Branch of the Octoraro Creek.

Details: Connie and her husband were riding horseback Sunday afternoon. They passed the location at about 2 PM and did not see the kite there. When they rode past again at 4 PM, it was on the ground, alive. It had trouble holding its head up and steady. They picked up the bird and took it back to their home. They attempted to find someone who could help save it, but the bird died within the hour (by 5 PM). One of their calls was to WGAL-TV in Lancaster, PA to try to reach Jack Hubley. They remembered that Jack and I had recently done a TV program about birds in winter, and they figured that Jack might be able to help. Jack was not reachable at the time. When he received the message on Thursday (17 March) he contacted me, I contacted Connie, and she brought the Kite to me early in the afternoon. My wife Nancy and I both noticed that the bird did not seem emaciated (by checking the keel bone). It had been frozen since soon after its death. I thawed it out enough to get its wings into good position for Tom Amico to photograph it, which he did. I kept the kite frozen. I turned it over to Jim Binder at Middle Creek WMA today (4 April 2005). He plans to have a taxidermic mount made for

6/30/2005

display at Middle Creek, with the carcass going to a vet in McKean County, Dr. Ken Felix, 814-873-4139; or 864-3019. Felix is going to do some work with the carcass and prepare specimens for Jennifer Coulson at Tulane University in Louisiana, who hopes to determine cause of death as part of an ongoing study and perhaps forward specimens to another researcher for DNA analysis.

Dan Brauning did most of the work to take care of the disposition of the Swallow-tailed Kite specimen for the greatest overall value. Nate Rice at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Phila also expressed an interest in receiving the specimen for the Academy collection, but it was decided that the bird would go on display at Middle Creek.

Sincerely,
BOB SCHUTSKY

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Swallow-tailed Kite (Elanoides forficatus)

Date of Sighting: 13 March 2005 to 13 March 2005

Location: OCTORARO CREEK

County : LANCASTER

Observer(s): Connie Price

Date of Submission: 2005

Submitted by: Bob Schutsky and Tom Amico

Written Description: No

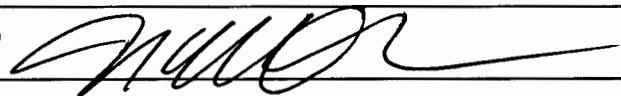
Photo: Yes

Specimen: Yes

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
D. Heathcote Guarante	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanlev	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman Heller	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	6 7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: ~~6~~ 70

Signature (Secretary) 

Date: 6/25/06