

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

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round One**

Species: Swallow-tailed Kite (Elanoides forficatus)

Date of Sighting: 17 April 2005 to 17 April 2005

Location: BUTLER TOWNSHIP

County : BUTLER

Observer(s): John West

Date of Submission: 2005

Submitted by: John West

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

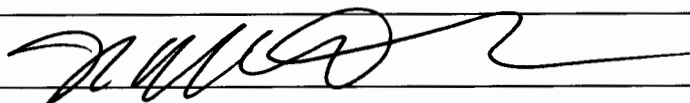
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut								
<del>D. Heathcote</del> <i>Guarke</i>			X					
P. Guris				X				
J. Stanley				X				
E. Witmer				X				
<del>R. Leberman</del> <i>Heller</i>					X			
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			1	4	1			
DECISION				X				

Comments: 1/5

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 6/21/06