

## Swallow-tailed Kite – Chambersburg, Franklin Co. Pennsylvania

At approximately 10:00 AM, On Saturday, September 20, 2008, I was sitting on the porch of a farm on a hill in the rural area, just west of Chambersburg, PA, with two others, There was the owner, my wife and I. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I glimpsed a movement in the sky nearby. Upon looking up I observed one of the most graceful and unusual birds I have ever seen. I called it to the other's attention and we watched it for several minutes, until it flew away.

As it sailed nearer, we could clearly see the white underside of the body and wings, with a large dark trim extending from the body to the tip, plus the dark, v-shaped tail, which was the most striking part. The head was white and, as it glided around, we were able to see the dark top. Unfortunately, We did not have a camera with us and, by the time one was brought out, he bird had flown away.

Upon looking at your site, I saw that it had only been seen once or twice in Pennsylvania. So, to be absolutely sure, I checked several other sites, some with pictures from numerous angles, and there is absolutely no doubt that it was the Swallow-Tailed Hawk (Kite). It was strikingly different from any bird I had ever seen , and beautiful.

We were approximately 6 miles West of the City of Chambersburg, on Wenger Road, and in a rural/farming area. Most of the land was wide open, but there were trees around the fenced areas/property borders.

Bill Gerke,  
duxx.pins AT comcast.net)

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Swallow-tailed Kite      *Elanoides forficatus*

Date of Sighting: 20 September 2008 to 20 September 2008

County : FRANKLIN

Location : CHAMBERSBURG

Observer(s): Bill Gerke

Date of Submission: 2008

Submitted by: Bill Gerke

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

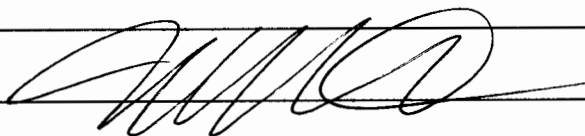
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut			x					
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson			X					
B. Coulter			X					
C. Rutt			X					
J. Heller			X					
G. Malosh				X				
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 2/3/09