

Mr D Willis Hartman
12 Hemlock Court
Lebanon, PA17042

July 11, 2010

Mr Hartman,

Thank you for your submission of a Swallow-tailed Kite in Cornwall on September 20, 2009. The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee appreciates the time and labor involved in submitting your record.

After one round of voting, the sighting was unfortunately not accepted. Although the committee members felt that the bird was probably a Swallow-tailed Kite there were still some reasonable doubts about the ID.

Your sighting of a Swallow-tailed Kite could very well be correct, unfortunately the committee has to go by the written description and some members felt that description fell a little short of a positive identification. Important field marks, such as the black remiges and rectrices, are not even mentioned in passing. It probably was one, but the committee has to evaluate the record on description only and the details we needed were not submitted.

Thanks again for your report and please don't let this discourage you from future submissions. The committee depends on reports like yours to further the knowledge of Pennsylvania ornithological studies.

Sincerely,

Al Guarente
Chairman

Record # 074-02-2007

Swallow-tailed Kite

Elanoides forficatus

20 Sept
2009

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

Willis
Hartman

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave. Rd
West Chester, PA 19380
~~nickpul@bellsouth.net~~

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Swallow-tailed Kite (Elanoides forficatus)
Subspecies, if known _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) _____

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): _____

DATE OF OBSERVATION Sept 20, 2009 TIME 11:45 AM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Cornwall

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Burd Coleman Rd

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name D. Willis Hartman
Address 12 Hemlock Ct
City Lebanon State PA ZIP 17042
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): _____

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Woodland edge

DISTANCE TO BIRD about 75' (I am poor in distances)

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) sky, partly cloudy
sun south

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED None

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): long forked swallow tail, falcon like
swept backed wings about the size of a redtailed hawk

Randy C. Miller called Willis Hartman
on 19 Dec. 2009 - to add more to
write up on Swallow-tailed kite -

Willis
Hartman Volunteer at Hawk Mtn. Sanctuary from
1992 to 1996. Visits alot.
Berks/Schuylkill County

Experience - Has seen in Texas many times.
last time 2006.

Knew what bird was in seconds.
Similar bird - "nothing close"

Saw flying south
Looked at Sibley's after knowing what it was.

Report date - 20 Nov. 2009

Did not know of Militia Hill Hawk Watch sightings
from 2009. Did not think people would believe
him!

Told Randy C. Miller 3 days after being seen.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Swallow-tailed Kite Elanoides forficatus

Date of Sighting: 20 September 2009 to 20 September 2009

County : LEBANON

Location : CORNWALL

Observer(s): Willis Hartman

Date of Submission: 2009

Submitted by: Willis Hartman

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	
R. Wiltraut								
A. Guarente				X				
T. Johnson					X			
B. Coulter				X	X			
C. Rutt					X			
J. Heller				X				
G. Malosh				X				
TOTALS				4	2			
DECISION				X				

Comments: 0/6

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 6/6/2010