

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2017-05-23 22:42:41
Observer's Name	Jere Schade
E-mail	jerebrenda@aol.com
Phone	2678845433
Observer's Address	3272 Durham Road Mechanicsville PA 18934 United States
Names of additional observers	Brenda Hendrickson (spouse)
Species (Common Name)	Swallow-tailed kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Elanoides forficatus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	05-21-2017 3:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Mechanicsville, Buckingham Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	3272 Durham Road; flight path north to south, 30 feet west of and parallel to road; flew over my house
Habitat	Mature stand of coniferous and deciduous trees mixed with open yard and house roofs
Distance to bird	Less than 100 ft
Viewing conditions	High cloud cover but clear diffuse light from ground to bird
Optical equipment used	Unaided eye
Description	Pointed wings and deeply forked tail; raptor-like gliding flight and the size of a northern harrier. Bird did not flap during my observation. Head, breast, belly, and wing linings white without streaking or barring. Underwing primaries, secondaries, and tail dark charcoal to black; viewed from directly below the bird
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Gliding flight without flapping headed due south at 100 ft off the ground. Flew parallel to my gutter which I was cleaning. Cleared an 80ft spruce tree at south border of my property about 20ft above top of tree

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Deeply forked tail was definitely black/dark rather than light/white and flight not at all like a tern; wing span much bigger than any tern.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

My wife, who is not a birder, saw the bird first and shouted for me to look up at the big black and white bird. I was on a ladder cleaning my gutter. I am no professional ornithologist but have been banding raptors since 1990. (Master permit 23824)
The bird was unmistakably a swallow-tailed kite.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Absolutely positive

During

None

After

Sibley and Peterson guides

Click to edit

PORC-webform00397