

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-09-03 22:10:58
Observer's Name	MICHAEL FIALKOVICH
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Observer's Address	805 BEULAH RD PITTSBURGH PA 15235 United States
Species (Common Name)	Swallow-tailed Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Elanoides forficatus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Immature.
Observation Date and Time	08-01-2018 1:10 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S47590376
County	Westmoreland
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Boliver, just north of Ligonier
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Across RT. 711 from Game Commission Office just south of the intersection with Plummer Road.
GPS coordinates of sighting	See ebird checklist.
Habitat	Areas of fields and forest.
Distance to bird	Hard to judge but perhaps 100 yards.
Viewing conditions	Excellent, clear sky, sun at my back.
Optical equipment used	Leica Ultravid 10X42 binoculars, Leica Spotting Scope with 20 - 60X zoom eyepiece.

Description	<p>Large raptor soaring over the tree tops.</p> <p>Upperside - back, wings and tail black. Head white.</p> <p>Underside - white underparts (breast, belly, undertail coverts), wings white on wing linings, primaries and secondaries black forming a black trailing edge and tips. Wings and tail long. Tail deeply forked. The long wings and tail gave the bird a pointy appearance.</p> <p>Excellent views through binoculars and spotting scope. Unmistakable.</p> <p>The bird was found and photographed the previous day. See ebird checklist https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S47567681</p>
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	<p>Observed the bird soaring over tree line where it would appear and disappear during the duration of my stay. As it banked I could see all the color details. Barely flapped its wings. at one point it was picking at its feet with its bill as if feeding on the wing.</p>
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	<p>Nothing is similar. Flight habits, plumage and shape distinctive, no raptor is strikingly black and white with a deeply forked tail.</p>
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	<p>Yes.</p>
During	<p>None. Not needed.</p>
After	<p>Sibley Guide to Birds, National Geographic Guide.</p>
Click to edit	<p>PORC-webform00023</p>