PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-08-30 17:02:00
Observer's Name	Pamela Fisher
E-mail	goldeagle_60@yahoo.com
Phone	7176179014
Observer's Address	761 Gap PA 17527 United States
Names of additional observers	Pamela Fisher
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	08-28-2019 12:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59334178
County	Lehigh
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Schnecksville
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Trexler Nature Preserve
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.668929, -75.636536
Habitat	Meadow with scattered trees. There is a housing development nearby.
Distance to bird	Variable. At times it was over the valley below us, at times it was right over our heads. At one point, it rested and preened in a tree just not far from us.
Viewing conditions	Mostly cloudy to overcast.
Optical equipment used	Bushnell 10x42 binoculars

Description

White from the head to the undertail coverts. Dark back, wings, and tail. Long pointed wings and a long forked tail.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

It was actively hunting and eating insects on the wing. It did eventually land on a dead snag and preened for quite awhile.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

No black around the eyes like an Osprey. I'm not sure what other birds it might be confused with.

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

This bird has been observed, photographed, and filmed by numerous people. The first report I saw was on August 21st.

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

Yes. We had extremely good looks, plus it looked just like the bird in the field guide.

During

Sibley's Guide to Birds of Eastern North America, iBird Pro.

After

Stokes Birds of North America, Peterson's Birds of North America.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph Video

Upload images, audio, video or drawings





DSCN2448.JPG

DSCN2457.JPG DSCN2462.MOV





DSCN2460.JPG





RSCN2436.JPG

DSCN2461.JPG

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