





186-01-1990

Nov 10, 1990

Swainson's Hawk Description/Photo Comments by Steve Smitner

This sighting was first related to me by Morris Cox, who also saw the bird but unfortunately has not given me a written description. From the description he provided over the phone, this bird was actually close overhead. I don't know what lens Dave used to take these photos. If you use a magnifying glass, further detail, especially the degree of contrast between the wing linings and the rest of the wing, can be seen. Dave Schwenk is an avid and very competent hawkwatcher who has been up on Second Mt every weekend for the last several years.

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The bird was seen in good light for several minutes against a partly cloudy sky. My first impression of this bird was that it was a Buteo, very much like a dark phase Rough-Legged. But unlike a Rough-Legged, the tail was dark, and at one point I saw fine banding in the tail. The body was completely dark, and the contrast between the darker carpal area and the lighter flight feathers was slighter, (than that of a Rough-Legged). Also the tail was longer, and the wings appeared somewhat narrow compared to other Buteos, even in soaring flight. The flight characteristics while typically Buteo, included at times a medium dihedral.

David B Schwenk
9/10/90

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Swainson's Hawk**

Date of Sighting: **September 16, 1990**

Observer(s): **Dave Schwenk**

Date of Submission: **1990**

Submitted by: **Steve Santner**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater				X			
B. Haas	X						
F. Haas	X						
R. Leberman				X			
G. McWilliams				X			
S. Santner	X						
P. Schwalbe						X	
TOTALS	3			3		1	
DECISION				X			

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

3-24-91