

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555

June, 10, 1996

Greg Grove
RD #1 Box 483
Petersburg, PA 16669

Dear Greg,

Thank you for submitting details on the Swainson's Hawk you saw at Stone Mountain, Huntingdon County on 10 September 1994 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt that a more detailed description would have been helpful to adequately rule in Swainson's Hawk and to rule out other raptors. This does not mean of course, that the bird was not a Swainson's Hawk, merely, that the details did not allow for a concrete determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

Record # 186-01-1994

186-01-1994

Swainson's Hawk - Huntingdon County

On September 10, 1994, Tim Herman and I were hawkwatching on Stone Mountain in Huntingdon Co. At 11:05 (EST) a Swainson's Hawk flew past the lookout.

When first observed, this bird was gliding down the ridge toward our position. I first tentatively identified it as an Osprey based strictly on large size and "crooked" wings somewhat like those of the typical gliding Osprey. When details of plummage became visible as the bird approached, it became obvious that it was not an Osprey. The first obvious plummage feature was the relatively darker feathers of the upper breast. As the bird came overhead I saw that the plummage of the lower breast and belly was lighter than the upper breast but did contain some distinct darker streaks. There was no resemblance to the typical underside plummage, including the belly-band, of a Red-tailed Hawk. The wings were extensively mottled, a mixture of off-white or creamy plummage and darker areas with no distinct pattern, indicating an immature bird. As the bird passed overhead, its large size was obvious, as large or slightly larger than a large Red-tail. The wings were held in an Osprey-like manner though not as extremely bent. It did not flap its wings while in view.

The bird was less than 100 feet above our position. I viewed the bird through Swift Audubon binoculars (8.5 x 44). I have seen Swainson's Hawks previously in Nebraska and Colorado.

Greg Grove
RD #1 Box 483
Petersburg, Pa. 16669
814-667-2305

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Date of Sighting: 10 September 1994 to 10 September 1994

Location: STONE MOUNTAIN

County: HUNTINGDON

Observer(s): Greg Grove

Date of Submission: 1994

Submitted by: Greg Grove

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas						X		
N. Pulcinella							X	
E. Kwater							X	
R. Ickes						X		
G. McWilliams							X	
P. Schwalbe							X	
S. Feldstein						X		
TOTALS						3	4	
DECISION						X	✓	

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. C. Haas

Date:

5/1/96

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Swainson's Hawk (Buteo swainsoni)**

Date of Sighting: **10 September 1994 to 10 September 1994**

Location: **STONE MOUNTAIN**

County: **HUNTINGDON**

Observer(s): **Greg Grove**

Date of Submission: **1994**

Submitted by: **Greg Grove**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas						X		
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater							X	
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams							X	
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			4			1	2	
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Send for Second Round.

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

9-19-95