

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555

September 23, 1997

Ruth Pfeffer
2805 Rubicam Avenue
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Dear Ruth,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the dark phase Swainson's Hawk you saw at Peace Valley County Park on 7 November 1996 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. There was concern within the committee that the description submitted did not contain enough detail to adequately describe a dark phase Swainson's Hawk or to convincingly rule out a dark phase Rough-legged Hawk. The dark phase forms of these two species share several common field marks: a banded tail with a dark subterminal band; white in the wrist and primaries; dihedral flight.

This of course, does not mean the bird was not a dark phase Swainson's Hawk, merely, that the record is not beyond reasonable doubt for acceptance

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 when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

Record # 186-01-1996

186-01 -1996

DARK PHASE SWAINSON'S HAWK

OBSERVED AT PEACE VALLEY ON NOVEMBER 7, 1996
BY RUTH PFEFFER AND THE NORTH PENN BIRDING CLASS

BIRD WAS SEEN AT THE BRIDGE GLIDING APPROXIMATELY 35 TO 40
FEET OVERHEAD. WINGS APPEARED POINTED WITH A DIHEDRAL.

BIRD WAS VERY DARK WITH BANDED TAIL, SUBTERMINAL BAND WIDER
WITH WHITE EDGE

THERE WAS A SPLASH OF WHITE NEAR THE WRIST AND IN THE
PRIMARIES.

APPROXIMATE SIZE OF RED TAIL BUT, HAD POINTED WINGS
ROUGH-LEGGED RULED OUT - THIS BIRD HAD BANDED TAIL AND WAS
UNIFORMLY DARK.

WE VIEWED THE BIRD FOR APPROXIMATELY 4 MINUTES AT 35 TO 40
FEET AND THEN IT GLIDED HIGHER AND WAS IN VIEW FOR ANOTHER 2
MINUTES.

FIELD GUIDES WERE AVAILABLE AND WE CONCLUDED DARK PHASE
SWAINSON'S HAWK.

*Ruth Pfeffer
2805 Republican Ave.
Willow Grove, PA 19090
215-659-3526*

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: 7 November 1996 to 7 November 1996

Location: PEACE VALLEY COUNTY PARK

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Ruth Pfeffer

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Ruth Pfeffer

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				2		1	4	
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

L. C. Haas

Date:

8-16-97