

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE  
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

31 January 2002

Dave Wildasin  
1140 Valley View Road  
York, PA 17403

Dear Dave,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Swainson's Hawk at Rocky Ridge Hawk Watch on 19 September 1999. The Committee regrets that it has voted not to accept this record.

Committee members were divided in their opinions, and the balloting went two rounds (which partly explains the delay in informing you). The final vote was one in favor and six not in favor of acceptance.

Some of those who declined to accept the record felt that the hawk was likely a Swainson's based on the light undersides of the wing except dark flight feathers, but believed that more details than the brief description were needed to eliminate all other species. Some members were more concerned about exactly how to interpret several things such as "somewhat" pointed wing tips and whether the "dark" head included the face and throat. Additional details of the breast, belly, undertail coverts, and a complete description of the tail would have helped to convince the Committee.

The Committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not imply that the hawk was not a Swainson's, but that the Committee believes the details were not sufficient to identify it conclusively.

We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting reports on any future rarities.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:  
Paul Hess, Chairman

Record No. 186-01-1999

186-01-1999

RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: Swainson's Hawk Date of this Observation: 9/19/1999

Date Found: 9/19/99 Last Date Seen: 9/19/99

Location: Rocky Ridge Hawk Watch

Township/City: Springettsbury Township County: York

Person Writing this report: Dave Wildasin

Address: 1140 Valley View Rd York, PA 17403

Phone: 717-852-8397

Other Observers: Heidi Wildasin, Ken Orvis, Cal Orvis

Who found the bird first: all 4 people about the same time

Other documentation Included: (Circle all appropriate items) (Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

Photograph

Audio Recording

Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored? \_\_\_\_\_

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed—Please do not write on back of this form)

This bird was seen by 3 of our 4 regular hawk watchers for approximately 5 minutes. The hawk fly toward us on an angle slightly above eye level and eventually went directly over top of us at approximately 50 feet in height. The bird flew slow enough for all to get a very good look at it.

This hawk flew with a slight dihedral. It's wings were slightly longer & more slender than a Red-tail. Wing tips were somewhat pointed.

The undersides of the wings were light, except all flight feathers were dark. There was a dark (black) band near the end of the tail. It's head was dark. The body was streaked heavily from the head to the top of the tail.

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Ballot - Round One**

Species: Swainson's Hawk ( Buteo swainsoni )

Date of Sighting: 9 September 1999 to 9 September 1999

Location: YORK

County: ROCKY RIDGE HAWK WATCH

Observer(s): Dave Wildasin

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Dave Wildasin

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

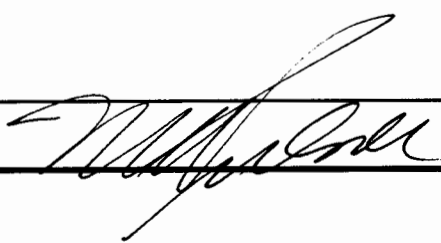
Specimen: No

Recording: No

| Member       | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A |            |            |         | Abstain |
|--------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
|              |         |          |           |            | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V |         |
| G. Armistead |         |          |           | X          |            |            |         |         |
| D. Couchman  |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| P. Hess      |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| R. Ickes     |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| M. Sharp     |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| B. Reid      |         |          |           |            | X          |            |         |         |
| P. Rodewald  |         |          |           |            | X          |            |         |         |
| TOTALS       |         |          | 4         | 1          | 2          |            |         |         |
| DECISION     |         |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |

Comments: 4/3 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 3/12/01

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Tabulation Form - Round Two

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

Date of Sighting: 9 September 1999 to 9 September 1999

Location: ROCKY RIDGE HAWK WATCH

County: YORK

Observer(s): Dave Wildasin

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Dave Wildasin

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

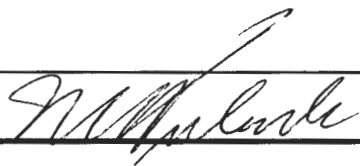
Specimen: No

Recording: No

| Member       | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A |            |            |         | Abstain |
|--------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
|              |         |          |           |            | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V |         |
| G. Armistead |         |          |           |            | X          |            |         |         |
| D. Couchman  |         |          |           | X          |            |            |         |         |
| P. Hess      |         |          |           |            | X          |            |         |         |
| R. Ickes     |         |          | X         |            |            |            |         |         |
| B. Reid      |         |          |           |            | X          |            |         |         |
| P. Rodewald  |         |          |           |            | X          |            |         |         |
| M. Sharp     |         |          |           | X          |            |            |         |         |
| TOTALS       |         |          | 1         | 2          | 4          |            |         |         |
| DECISION     |         |          |           |            | X          |            |         |         |

Comments: 1/6

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 11/7/01