

July 1, 2008

Matt Wlasniewski  
21 Scenic Drive  
Hamburg PA 19526

Thank you for your submission to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee of a Swainson's Hawk sighting at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on August 25, 2007.

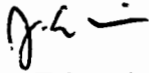
The record was voted (6/1) upon as a Class IV-B record.

Several members of the committee noted that the report focused more on field marks such as "a lack of windows, long and narrow wings and no belly band" attempting to eliminate more common buteos than describing a Swainson's Hawk.

The committee felt there was a lack of details describing the under-wing and tail patterns that are essential in a convincing report of a Swainson's Hawk.

Thank you for your efforts to further Pennsylvania records of Ornithology.

Sincerely,



J. Eric Witmer  
Chairman Pennsylvania Ornithological Committee

Record # 186-01-2007

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
613 Howard Ave.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
nickpulcinella@comcast.net

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) Swainson's Hawk - *Buteo swainsoni*  
Subspecies, if known \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) Unknown

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): JUV Dark phase

DATE OF OBSERVATION 08/25/2007 TIME 11:10 D.S.T.

LOCATION (city, borough, township) KEMPTON, PA

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Hawk mt Sanctuary, North Lookout

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name MATT WLASNIEWSKI  
Address 21 Scenic Drive  
City Hamburg State PA ZIP 19526  
e-mail (optional) matski@enter.net phone (optional) 610 562 7550

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): None

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Rocky Lookout - North Lookout @ Hawk mt

DISTANCE TO BIRD 75 ft approx above over right shoulder

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) hazy sky with sun almost overhead but not bright due to cloud haze over.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Zeiss Bino 8x40 BT

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

Bird appeared over East Rocks - flapping and gliding. winds were SE-SW 5 mph approx. At some times bird was flying directly at me but veered off toward South Lookout.  
at first I thought Red tail Hk but as it got closer, I saw no belly band and a slight ~~di~~ dihedral to wing set. wings too narrow to be Broadwing - too long. As it passed overhead, confirmed no belly band, no "windows" as in Red-shouldered Hawk.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) flopping then glide  
in Southern migration.

VOCALIZATIONS None

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing  (I'm a poor artist.)

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:  
Name S. Line  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition \_\_\_\_\_  
If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

Red-tailed - No belly band, wings appear more narrow,  
Red-shouldered - No "winnows" at tips, flapping not like  
"butterfly"  
Broadwinged - No dark edging to underwing, wings too narrow,  
tail not heavily barred.

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

As I observed bird for about 2 minutes, I  
eliminated Broadwing first, then Red-tail and  
lastly Red-shouldered. Was able to get very good look at  
streaked chest & light tail.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES:

Seen in Colorado,  
Wyoming, Idaho, Arizona, also one at Hawk mt  
with another counter about 10 years ago.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not)

I am sure of this identity.  
In twelve seasons at Hawk mt as a counter and 30 yrs  
of active birding, I am very familiar with the species I

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation \_\_\_\_\_  
After observation Hawk from every angle - J. Liguori "marks"

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 08/26/07

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER: Math Wessum

Swainson's Hawk  
08/25/2007

Hawk MA PA

Mark Wlasudewski

juvenile Swainson's



## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Swainson's Hawk (Buteo swainsoni)

Date of Sighting: 25 August 2007 to 25 August 2007

Location: BERKS

County : HAWK MOUNTAIN

Observer(s): Matt Wlasniewski

Date of Submission: 2007

Submitted by: Matt Wlasniewski

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

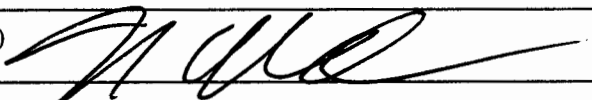
Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut					X			
A. Guarente					X			
T. Johnson					X			
B. Coulter			X	<del>8</del>				
E. Witmer				X				
J. Heller					X			
G. Malosh					X			
TOTALS			1	1	5			
DECISION					X			

Comments:

N/C

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

12/6/07