

Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report Form

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

(NumberIndividuals) 1

(AgePlumage) Adult light morph

(DateTime) 10/22/2010 late morning

(Location) Whitemarsh Township

(ExactSite) Militia Hill Hawk Watch Fort Washington State Park

(ObserverName) Michael Rosengarten, 904 Bismark Way, King of Prussia PA 19406
micros610@aol.com, 610-299-3606

(OtherObservers) Chris Dooley, Marylea Klauder, plus 4-5 others

(Habitat) woodland

(Distance) 100-200 yards

(ViewConditions) sun behind us clear skys

(OpticalEquip) Nikon 10x42, Zeiss 7x42, plus others

(Description) Bird was flying with and interacting with a Red-shouldered Hawk. It was longer winged and flapping very different than anything we normally see. Slower wing beats and everything about it said "different". The birds were both fairly close coming straight at us and this bird was very light colored, in fact one of our regular observers blew it off as an Osprey and followed the Shoulder and was arguing our call of a Swainson's. The birds split apart and the right bird turned and gave everyone a perfect view of it's undersides. I yelled Swainson's and one of other observers a Master Bander and someone who has yearly and extensive experience with Swainson's immediately agreed. This bird had a dark hooded head, creamy colored body, coverts and a tail with a dark terminal band and all flight feathers were dark. What we all agreed was a beautiful adult bird. We all studied Sibley and Wheeler and agreed it was very similar to Wheeler's photo of a light morph.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

(Behavior) Bird was flying with and interacting with a Red-Shouldered Hawk coming straight at our location and then turned and flew southeast. Bird was visible naked eye and was within 200 yards, possibly closer and very low. Bird was very agile and flapping continuously until it turned away from the Shoulder and flew off.

(Vocalizations) none

Supporting evidence if any: (Check all that apply)

(Photograph) Unchecked

(Video Recording) Unchecked

(Audio Recording) Unchecked

(Drawing) Unchecked

Separation from similar species

(How you eliminated others)

Bird was not really an ID problem. We did check Sibley and Wheeler and used both to show others on the Hawk watch what we were so excited about.

Discussion - anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Previous experience with this and/or similar species

(Experience) I have very little, others had extensive experience(years and hundreds of observations)

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

(Positive) Yes, everything about this bird was right

References Consulted

(ReferencesDuring) none

During Observation

After Observation

(ReferencesAfter) Sibley and Wheeler

Date of this Report:

(ReportDate) 11/17/2010

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*

Date of Sighting: 22 October 2010 to 22 October 2010

County : MONTGOMERY

Location : MILITIA HILL HAWKWATCH

Observer(s): Michael Rosengarten, Chris Dooley, Marylea Klauder

Date of Submission: 2010

Submitted by: Michael Rosengarten

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
D. DeReamus		X					
A. Guarente			X				
T. Johnson			X				
B. Coulter	X	X	X				
C. Rutt			X				
J. Heller			X				
G. Malosh			X				
TOTALS		1	6				
DECISION			X				

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 1/30/11