

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. Fill in all relevant fields and then click on the "Submit by Email" button at the end of the form to send it to the PORC Secretary. Or print the form and mail it to the PORC Secretary (see address below).

NOTE: The fields scroll down as you type to permit as much text as needed.
The **RESET** button clears all of the fields if you wish to start over with a blank form.

Species (Common and Scientific Name):

Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni*

Subspecies, if known

Number of individuals Sex(es)

1 individual, sex 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):

Age unknown, probable dark-morph or rufous morph

Date and Time of Observation

16 September 2010, 0940 (EST)

Location (City, Borough, Township)

KEMPTON, Albany Township

Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)

North Lookout, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Observer Reporting:

Name

David Barber

Address State Zip

920 Jacks Lane, Orwigsburg, PA 17961

E-mail (Optional)

barber@hawk.mtn.org

Phone (Optional)

570-943-3411, x105

Other Observers (Only Those Who Saw and Identified the Bird with You):

Rudy Keller, Joe Jehl

Habitat (E.g. Mowed Field, Woodland Edge, Any other details)

rock outcropping on ridge

Distance to Bird (Specify feet, yards, etc.)

0.5-1.0 miles

Viewing Conditions (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you)

completely overcast with low cloud ceiling, SSE winds 10-15 mph

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

This bird was soaring with a group of ~15 broad winged hawks and was larger than the broadwings, had longer wings, which tapered to a point, flew with a pronounced dihedral, but steady not rocking like a turkey vulture. The bird flapped a few times and had deep fluid wing beats, not stiff like a broadwing.

The lighting was poor, so the bird appeared dark overall.

After circling with broadwings it flew in a SW direction ~100' above the ridge, but 0.5-1.5 miles away.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

see above

Vocalizations

none

Supporting evidence if any: (Check all that apply)

Photograph

Video Recording

Audio Recording

Drawing

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name

Address

City State Zip

E-mail (Optional)

Phone (Optional)

Please send a copy of the photograph, drawing, or recording to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, Pa 19380
Nickpulcinella@verizon.net

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)

Larger than broadwinged hawk, had structure of a buteo, but longer wings than Bw or RTHA, ruled out TV, because of larger head, did not rock while in dihedral, no white wing linings. Broader wings and shorter broader tail than

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

a northern harrier. Ruled out golden eagle, which does have a dihedral, but wings were narrower, no white in tail or wings & wing beats not as slow and deep as an eagle, and dihedral was more pronounced.

Previous experience with this and/or similar species

I've seen swainson's hawks many times in Texas, and as a hawk counter I am familiar with other spp mentioned above

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

Yes, based on size, shape, jizz it doesn't fit any other species.

References Consulted:

During Observation

none

After Observation

none

Date of this Report:

9/16/10

(Click on the box and select

Swainson's Hawk - prob. dark or rufous morph
9/16/2010 HMS-North Lookout

Single bird migrating with Broadwings on south side of Kittatinny. Seen in flight from vic. of Donat till it disappeared from view beyond Newlocks Heights.

Also seen by David Barber, Joe Jehl, other NLO observers & by intern at SLO.

Viewing distance difficult to determine, perhaps one to 1.8 miles. Light poor - overcast with haze that obscured colors. Brisk easterly wind that had pushed many BW's in to ridges. Viewing time short - under a minute? Seen through Zeiss 10x40's

Bird appeared with BW's but larger, darker and longer winged with strong dihedral - immediate impression, quickly rejected, was of a TV. On side view, appeared to be a dark, long winged buteo. Wings tapered to pointed tips. From below, wingtips black with darker trailing edge to grayish/lighter flight feathers. Underwing coverts dark. Small amount of light coloring visible beneath near base of underside of tail. Otherwise, bird was uniformly dark above & below. Looked much darker than BW's. Flapped in the manner of BW's while gaining lift, but always held wings in strong dihedral in soar.

Similar spp.: TV - smaller headed, wingtips not pointed, but held like spread fingers, deeper flap, rocks. N. Harrier - skinner than this bird with narrow wings, deeper flap, always shows light rump. This bird chunkier with buteo wings, dark rump.

Golden Eagle (I briefly considered it because of darkness of this bird) bigger, does have dihedral but wings very broad with spread fingered look, big head, big body. Dark rump/leg - would have shown more light coloring on tail, wings held with spread tips, not pointed.

Have seen all spp. above - Swainson's in western US.

Rudy Keller

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*

Date of Sighting: 16 September 2010 to 16 September 2010

County : BERKS

Location : HAWK MOUNTAIN

Observer(s): David Barber, Rudy Keller, Joe Jehl

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: David Barber, Rudy Keller

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						
R. Koury					X			
D. Weber		X						
G. Malosh		X						
TOTALS		3	1		1			
DECISION		X						

Comments:

6/1

Signature (Secretary)

Nick Pulcinella

Date:

1/21/12