

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-11-07 09:09:07
Observer's Name	Andrew Fayer
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Observer's Address	415 Toland Drive Fort Washington PA 19034 United States
Names of additional observers	Judd Friedman
Species (Common Name)	Swainson's Hawk
Species (Scientific Name)	Buteo swainsoni
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult, Light Morph
Observation Date and Time	11-06-2016 1:10 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Montgomery
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Fort Washington, Whitemarsh Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Militia Hill Hawkwatch Deck, Fort Washington State Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.120456, -75.222264
Habitat	Flyover - Suburban Park
Distance to bird	200 yards
Viewing conditions	Sunny, Little Cloud Cover, Clear
Optical equipment used	Leica 12 x 50 Ultravid HD
Description	Buteo with dark head, light underneath - no belly band, wings light underneath with dark primaries and secondaries, long wings, tail lighter than flight feathers, but not red or banded.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was soaring and turning in tight circles, gaining altitude. Wings held in slight dihedral when soaring. Made slight wing adjustments rather than flaps. Very buoyant flight. Wings held forward when buffeted by wind.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Northern Harrier - Bird soared dihedral, but tail much too short. Wings too broad. When wings held forward, had much different shape than harrier.

Red-shouldered Hawk - Coloration on underside very different. Wing shape different - much narrower and longer. No crescents. No banding on tail.

Red-tailed Hawk - Different profile and coloration. Wing shape narrower. Flight more buoyant, turns tighter than red-tailed. No bellyband.

Rough-legged Hawk - No carpal patches. Coloration of wings much different.

Broad-winged hawk - Unexpected in November. Shape and coloration different.

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

I've seen thousands of migrating raptors this Fall. As soon as I found the bird, it stood out as different shape and behavior.

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

Yes. I've seen many Swainson's out West and in Texas. Coloration of bird, shape and flight style are easily distinguishable from eastern species.

During

Sibley App

After

Hawks at a Distance, Jerry Liguori

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