

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.

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): Zone-Tailed Hawk (Buteo albonotatus)

Subspecies, if known

Number of individuals Sex(es) 1

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): Adult

Date and Time of Observation May 16, 2011 6:30 PM

Location (City, Borough, Township) Walnutport, PA Lehigh Township

Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road) 128 West Zimmer Dr.

Observer Reporting:

Name Rick Gaeta

Address State Zip 128 W. Zimmer Dr. Walnutport, PA 18088

E-mail (Optional) trgaeta@ptd.net

Phone (Optional) 610-767-4021

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

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

Distance to Bird (Specify feet, yards, etc.) 100 feet

Viewing Conditions (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) 100% low cloud cover , no rain, sun was behind me

Optical Equipment Used none

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):

Large dark bird , looked like a turkey vulture from the distance but slightly smaller. It had a feather missing in the middle of each wing and possibly a tail feather missing. Totally dark underneath. Had a hawk's head.

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

The bird was first observed from about a mile away, to the east/southeast of my location. It was soaring and circling with a pronounced dihedral just like a turkey vulture. However when it flapped the wing-beats were not as deep as those of a turkey vulture but more pronounced than the rapid flutter of a black vulture. It was smaller than a TV but had a longer tail than a BV. Soon it began flapping and moving directly toward me and before long it was right over my head. It was then that I saw the hawk-like head. The bird was heading in a northwest direction towards the Lehigh Gap. This all happened in a matter of minutes.

Vocalizations

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@comcast.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)

hawk-like head flight pattern like a TV but with shorter wings and shallower wing-beats.
Longer tail than a BV

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

Closeness of the bird to the observer - 100 feet

Previous experience with this
and/or similar species

saw one in 1993 near Boulder, Co. similar situation initially thought it was a TV but upon
closer observation saw the hawk-like head. I consulted my Peterson's field guide and

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

Yes - seen one before. Closeness of bird to observer. Flight pattern of a TV with a hawk-
like head. Been a hawk-watcher for 25 years (15 years Hook Mt. NY, 10 Years Bake Oven

References Consulted:

During Observation

After Observation

Date of this Report:

(Click on the box and select
date from calendar)

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*

Date of Sighting: 16 May 2011 to 16 May 2011

County : LEHIGH

Location : WALNUTPORT

Observer(s): Rick Gaeta

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Rick Gaeta

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 | | | | | 5 | 2 | | |
| DECISION | | | | | X | | | |

Comments: 0/7

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 11/26/11