

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2014-09-15 12:06:10
Observer's Name	Geoff Malosh
E-mail	pomarine@earthlink.net
Observer's Address	Street Address: 450 Amherst Avenue City: Moon Township State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15108 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Holly McChesney, hmcchesney1@YMAIL.COM
Species (Common Name)	Crested Caracara
Species (Scientific Name)	Caracara cheriway
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	09-13-2014 11:00 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Washington
Location (City, Borough, Township)	A few miles west of the city of Washington, near Taylorstown
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Pleasant Valley Road at Clarke Road, about halfway between the towns of Washington and Claysville
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.160287, -80.344991
Habitat	Mixed wooded and cultivated valley with horse and dairy farms nearby.
Distance to bird	Unknown
Viewing conditions	Unknown
Optical equipment used	Unknown
Description	I am submitting this record on behalf of the person who found the bird, Holly McChesney. I did not see the bird myself and Holly was the only observer (aside from a few non-birder local residents). Holly supplied two photos of the bird and granted me permission to submit the record to PORC on her behalf.

Holly reported seeing this bird on the afternoon of Sept 12 and again at 11am on Sept 13 when she was able to make the attached photos and confirm the ID.

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

Unknown. I did not see the bird for myself.

Holly told me she saw the bird in flight and perched and personally showed me the areas she saw the bird and described the encounter. I found her report to be credible. While searching for the bird myself, I also had two separate discussions with local residents (non-birders) who noticed an unusual "white-headed vulture" feeding with Turkey Vultures on a groundhog carcass just a few feet from Pleasant Valley Road earlier in the morning on Sep 13.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

I did not see the bird for myself. I offer only Holly's photos.

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

I found Holly's report to be credible in discussions with her.

Although the specific spot where Holly saw the bird is not similar habitat to this species' typical preference in its normal range, there were several open fields nearby including one active dairy farm directly adjacent to the sighting area (on a hillside above). In fact we spent just as much time checking these open areas in our attempt to recover this bird as we did checking the original sighting location. However, despite commencing a continuous search until dusk just two hours after Holly's final sighting on Sept 13 and searching for the entire morning the next day as well, nobody recovered the bird.

Holly offered to provide more details of the sighting if needed.

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

I did not see the bird for myself.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[Caracara1.jpg](#)



[Caracara2.jpg](#)

Click to edit

PORC-webform00226