

## 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. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary  
 Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
 613 Howard Ave.  
 West Chester, PA 19380  
 nickpulcinella@comcast.net

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) Northern Hawk Owl - *Surnia ulia*  
 Subspecies, if known \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) 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): Adult

DATE OF OBSERVATION 10-9-06 TIME Aprox 9 Pm

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Wells Twp Fulton Co

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) PA Rte 913 near Huntingdon Co Line

## OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name James F Brannell  
 Address 5430 N Hess Rd  
 City Waterfall State Pa ZIP 16689  
 e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) 814 685 3862

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): Wife Delores  
Wife's Cousin Florence Pyle & Robert Pyle

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) along Highway directly in front of occupied Home

DISTANCE TO BIRD aprox. 20 ft

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Night Time directly in front of car along Roadside in car Headlights

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED None Needed

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): When first observed along Road Thought it was perhaps a Barn Owl because of prominent white areas on wings. We my wife and I went to get Florence & Bob as she had never seen a Barn Owl. Upon returning, looking at side view Bob said looks like a Hawk. Side view showed elongated tail looking somewhat pointed was feeding on a Blue Heron and as it ate tail bobbed up & down. Turned and looked directly at us and saw black on the outside of white eye patches. Wings appeared to have white spots with leading edge looking like a white bar.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

We talked too loud and it flew directly away in headlights saw feathered feet.

We pulled down road and looked at owls in Nat. Geographic Bird Guide. we decided only owl that it resembled was Northern Hawk owl

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) was ingressed in feeding and as it fed Bobbed its tail

VOCALIZATIONS Noxre Heard

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY: Sorry None  
Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_  
Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

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) ~~the owl~~ we are familiar with Great Horned owl, Barred Owl, Shorteared owl, screech owl, and Barn Owl. These were all eliminated as possibilities

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: Delores is a recorder of Hawk Migration one day a week at Tuscarora Hawk watch

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES Listed above as being familiar with other species as Delores and I have seen them

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) Yes, at the range we saw it this was the only possible owl it could have been

REFERENCES CONSULTED:  
During observation National Geographic Bird Guide  
After observation \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 10-19-06

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER James J. Purcell

446-01-2006

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) Northern Hawk Owl Surnia ulula  
Subspecies, if known \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) 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): adult mature

DATE OF OBSERVATION Oct. 9. 06 TIME approx 9:00 PM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Near New Greendaw, 915 RT. Fulton Co.

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) 915 - along Sliding Hill Creek.

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Delores Purnell  
Address 430 N. Hess Rd.  
City WATERFALL State PA ZIP 16639  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) 814-685-9862

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): Bob & Florence Pyle - Husband James Purnell

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) along Road - edge of Creek - Behind House - Owl in front of House - Spruce Trees in lawn

DISTANCE TO BIRD approx 20 feet

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) night Time Bird directly in head lights

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED very close - none needed

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): wasnt a horned owl or barred owl - so thought had to be Barn. Got our friends quickly - wasnt Barn owl on closer observation. Bob thought looked like hawk. Shaped somewhat like hawk. Then it looked directly at us. Bobed its tail as it ate its face was rounder than Barn and different in every way - a V shape came down to its beak. The sides of face had 2 black lines down each side of face. It was very pretty with its spots running down its back. Its chest was very barred - when it flew it definitely had feathered legs & feet. Then we looked in our Bird Book. everyone said at once - There it is - there isnt anything else like it - A Northern Hawk Owl

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) seemed very hungry as it ate Great Blue Heron. its tail was Jerking up and down- wasn't afraid of us - we become some what noisy and the residents dog was barking - So flew

VOCALIZATIONS didn't hear any thing

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY: didn't have camera  
Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_  
Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

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) We knew wasn't Barred or horned. Screech or SawWhet. So Tried to make Barn owl out of it - But definitely not Barn - So referred to our Book. Keep Book in car as always on look out for anything we can spot

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: \_\_\_\_\_

I have been helping with Tuscarora Hawk watch for 30 years - One day a week I identify 16 different hawks goblen & bald eagles.

Charles Brightbill was my teacher  
(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES Have always seen our local owls & Hawks

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ? (why or why not) 100% would stake my life on it if had to

REFERENCES CONSULTED:  
During observation National Geographic Bird Guide  
After observation Peterson field Guide -

DATE OF THIS REPORT: Oct 17-06

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Delores Funnell

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) Northern Hawk Owl  
 Subspecies, if known ?

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) ?

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): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF OBSERVATION 10-9-06 TIME 9:00 pm

LOCATION (city, borough, township) New Grenada at Foton Co - Huntingdon Co Line

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Route 913

## OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Florence Pyle  
 Address 685 Hopewell Rd  
 City Downingtown State PA ZIP 19335  
 e-mail (optional) pyl1026@verizon.net phone (optional) 610 269 5571

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Pyle Dolores Purnell Jim Purnell

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) edge of road by row of spruce trees in wooded area in a mountain gap ~~by~~ stream with a

DISTANCE TO BIRD Approximately 20-30 ft.

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) \_\_\_\_\_

clear moonlight night  
seen by car headlights

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):

Yellow eyes - Hawk like Facial expression  
Vertical Black Lines on each side of Face  
Large puffy head  
Long Narrow tail - tail bobbed once or twice  
15-18" high  
Upright posture as it Fed on prey  
Distinct Lines on body  
Horizontally pale barred breast  
Feathered legs

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

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

The Bird was perched on a large carcass beside the highway - He looked directly at us then continued to pull off a few more bites, turned his head to reveal large round head - He dipped his body a few times before swooping up and out of our sight

VOCALIZATIONS

NONE

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY: None

Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD: NO

General condition \_\_\_\_\_

If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

No horns - In various range of owls  
Large head separates it from hawks  
Horizontal bars eliminate many owls

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Its face was hawk-like but it turned its head and I could see the large puffy round head - Feet & legs appeared feathered as it took off

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

Have seen many owls (Screech - great horned - Short eared - Saw whet - Snowy binned) but this is a new bird for me

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not)

Yes - No other bird in any book looks more like it. We had a good look and all features fit the description

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation Nat. Geographic Book

After observation (Owls of World) - Peterson - Birds of Alaska - Fuentes - Birds of America  
Burton several computer sites - Golden

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 10-20-06

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER

Flowers M. Pylo

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) Northern Hawk Owl  
 Subspecies, if known ?

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) ?

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): ?

DATE OF OBSERVATION 10-9-06 TIME 9:00 PM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) New Granada, Wells Township

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) RT 913

## OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Robert R Pyle  
 Address 685 Hopewell Rd  
 City Downingtown State PA ZIP 19335  
 e-mail (optional) rpyle1026@verizon.net phone (optional) 610-269-5571

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): Florence Pyle  
Jim Purnell, Dolores Purnell

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) road side near stream, wooded area, house near with a spruce between road and house

DISTANCE TO BIRD car was about 25'

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) night - head lights of car high beam. The weather was clear

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): black on face, horizontal white marking on breast, first impression was it was a hawk, white broken line along upper part of wing on back, feathered legs which I saw when it took off, very distinct clear coloring. you could see that it was an owl when it turned its head. No ears were visible size about 16"

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) it didn't seem to be afraid of us. Continued to feed after we first got there.

VOCALIZATIONS NONE

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition No

If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) horizontal barring of breast, black on face, vivid coloring,

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: \_\_\_\_\_

we all picked the same owl from the reference book before we were aware that it was not from this area.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES I have seen the owl that came to this area (PA)

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) YES! There is no other bird like it in any of the reference books.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation National Geog.

After observation A LOT OF DIFFERENT BOOKS

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 10-23-06

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Robert R. Ryk



**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round One**

Species: Northern Hawk Owl (Surnia ulula)

Date of Sighting: 9 October 2006 to 9 October 2006

Location: NEW GREANDA

County : FULTON

Observer(s): Delores Purnell, James Purnell, Florence Pyle, Robert Prle

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: Delores Purnell, James Purnell, Florence Pyle, Robert Prle

Written Description: Yes

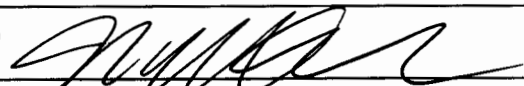
Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut		X						
A. Guarente		X						
T. Johnson		X						
J. Stanley		X						
E. Witmer		X						
J. Heller					X			
G. Malosh		X						
TOTALS		6			1			
DECISION		X						

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary) 

Date: 4/10/07