

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

6 February 2002

Aaron B. Clauser
60 Plum Creek Road
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Dear Aaron,

Thank you for submitting documentation for the Chuck-will's-widow at Schuylkill Haven on 31 May 1997. After careful review, the Committee regrets that it has voted not to accept this record.

Members' opinions were divided about whether the call described was of this species, and the balloting went two rounds (which partly explains the long delay in reporting the result to you). In the final vote four of us accepted the record, having no doubt that your description indicated Chuck-will's-widow. Three voted not to accept it, believing that "the first notes longest, the next two short and close together" did not appear correct for the species -- particularly the first note, "chuck," described as being one of the two longest notes.

Although the vote was a majority 4-3 for acceptance, the Committee's bylaws require a minimum 6-1 vote for a record to be accepted.

The committee always emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean the bird was not a Chuck-will's-widow, but rather that a sufficient number of members did not feel the species was identified conclusively.

We hope this does not discourage you from submitting reports of rarities in the future.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

Record No. 463-01-1997

463-01-1997

VERIFICATION FORM

Details must be submitted for all species of uncertain breeding status. They are noted on the field cards, "Safe Date" list and Summary Data sheet with an asterisk (*). In addition, many locally rare species will require verification at the discretion of your Regional Coordinator. If you discover one of these birds, notify your Regional Coordinator immediately!

Then, fill out and send this form to your Regional Coordinator. Asterisked birds will not be accepted without a "Verification Report Form." Include sketches and/or photos if possible. Your cooperation is essential to the integrity of the Atlas Project.

SPECIES: CHUCK-will's-Widow DATE: 5/13/97 TIME: 8:20 PM
OBSERVER: Aaron B. Clausen ADDRESS: 60 Plum Creek Rd.
PHONE #: (717) - 739-2697 Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
QUAD NAME: FRIEDENSBURG QUAD #: 4007652 BLOCK #: 3
EXACT LOCATION: Wayne Township, Schuylkill Haven, PA, Kenneth Kreeger's farm,
Lutz valley Road

HABITAT - Describe fully for the general area and specific location.

This species was heard in a farming valley along a stream. The bird was within 50 yards of a small brook which flows through a pasture. The pasture is under a canopy of saw timber white oak and shagbark hickory with some multiflora rose bushes.

BREEDING BEHAVIOR - Give all details of behavior that indicates this species is actually breeding.

SIGHTING CONDITIONS - Distance, length of time, light, weather, optical aids, etc.

Bird was about 50 yards away at dusk on a still quiet night. It sang about 15 times

IDENTIFICATION - Describe plumage, song, call notes, size comparison, physical features, differences from similar species, previous experience with it.

singing Chuck-will's-widow The first notes longest then next two short and close together longer pauses between songs than whip-poor-will or the bird note loudest

SIGNATURE: Aaron B. Clausen
(observer) *upward but soft / upward / downward / louder*

DATE OF REPORT: 5/13/97

SIGNATURE: Tom Clausen
(Regional Coordinator)

DATE: 6/9/97

Use other side for further details and list of other observers with addresses and phone numbers. Regional Coordinator - forward this report to:

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*)

Date of Sighting: 13 May 1997 to 13 May 1997

Location: SCHUYLKILL HAVEN

County: SCHUYLKILL

Observer(s): Aaron Clauser

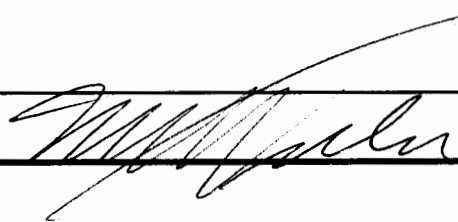
Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Aaron Clauser

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman			X					
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes				X				
J. McWilliams			X					
B. Reid						X		X
P. Rodewald				X				
TOTALS			3	2		1		1 X
DECISION								

Comments: 3/3/1 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 9/28/00

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round Two

Species: Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*)

Date of Sighting: 13 May 1997 to 13 May 1997

Location: SCHUYKILL HAVEN

County: SCHUYKILL

Observer(s): Aaron Clauser

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Aaron Clauser

Written Description: Yes

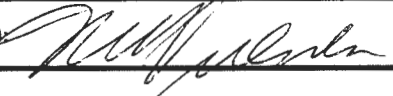
Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman			X					
G. Armistead			X					
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes				X				
J. McWilliams			X					
B. Reid						X		
P. Rodewald				X				
TOTALS			4	2		1		
DECISION				X				

Comments: 4/3/0 revised

Signature (Secretary) 

Date: 10/2/01