

756-02-1997

SWAINSON'S WARBLER

Swainson's Warbler

8/14/97

Ridley Creek State Park

On Thursday August 14, 1997, I was leading a birdwalk on the bridle trail at Ridley Creek State Park. At approximately 8:30 am a movement in the brush caught my attention. I was able to get my binoculars on the bird and immediately thought it was a warbler, a Worm-eating Warbler to be precise, since this would be a regular visitor to the area. However, upon looking at the head of the bird I instantly knew this bird to be a Swainson's Warbler.

The head pattern of the bird showed a slight eye line through the eye and a pale, but bold supercilium. The crown of the bird was missing the central crown stripe of the Worm-eating Warbler which convinced me I was watching a Swainson's Warbler. The crown itself was a brownish coloration, but because of the bird being in the shade, I really couldn't tell if there was a difference between the crown color and the color of the back in the 15 seconds that the bird was visible. Another obvious feature of the bird was the large long pointed bill. To me this bill shape and size ruled out the possible confusion with any of the vireos.

The underparts of the bird were a drab grayish white, not the buffy color of the Worm-eating Warbler. There was no spotting or barring on the upper or underparts, ruling out Waterthrushes and Ovenbird. The wings were void of any wingbars and were basically the same coloration as the back of the bird.

The most striking feature of this warbler was the contrast between the light color eyebrow and the dark head. Also very noticeable was the overall appearance of being a rather drab looking bird. However, I'm always mighty glad to be able to see the Swainson's, even if it is not one of our most colorful warblers.

Submitted by,

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

Date of Sighting: 14 August 1997 to 14 August 1997

Location: RIDLEY CREEK STATE PARK

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): Al Guarente

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Al Guarente

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					
P. Rodewald			X					
TOTALS			6					1
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/0/1

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 1/14/01