



26 May 1998

Nick Pulcinella
Apt. 6, 201 Elm Ave.
Swathmore, PA 19081

Dear Nick:

I was privileged to see both Swainson's Warblers that were found in Pennsylvania this May. I also was able to get some reasonably decent pictures of them and videotape them calling. I have enclosed slides of both birds and a videotape of both of them calling to support this rare bird report.

Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii*, 15 May 1998, observed along PA Route 325 in Clark's Valley at the west end of State Game Lands 211 from about 6:50 am to 8:10 am EDT (note: time stamp on videotape is an hour behind since it is still set on EST for both birds).

756-02-1998
This bird was constantly singing a Swainson's Warbler call (videotape captured the call) and was flying around some trees above some honeysuckle. It was smaller than the catbirds that were also singing nearby but not as small as an American Redstart or Kinglets. The bird had a noticeably long bill for a warbler and the bill appeared to be yellowish in color. It was thicker at the face and tapered to a sharp point at the end of the bill, unlike the slight hook-like end of a vireo. The head was topped with a reddish-brown cap. There was a pale yellow "eye-brow" and a dark line that ran through the eye of the bird. The bill of the bird was almost as long as the eye-line. The back and wings of the bird were grayish-brown. The throat, breast and belly were a pale white with very little gray below the wing edges. The underside was rather clean-looking in this bird (the breast view of the bird in the slides and on tape show this as well). The legs were yellow in color.

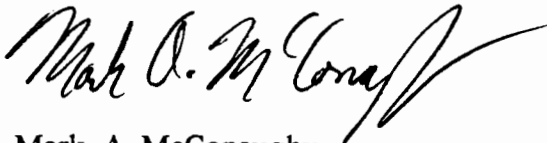
Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii*, 18 May 1998, Loyalhanna Wetlands, Westmoreland County, roughly 2:30 pm to 3:05 pm.

756-03-1998
This bird was also constantly singing a Swainson's Warbler song (again, captured on the videotape) in the trees and brush of the area. It was smaller than a catbird, but not as small as an American Redstart or Kinglets. The bird had a noticeably long bill for a warbler and the bill appeared to be yellowish in color. It was thicker at the face and tapered to a sharp point at the end of the bill, unlike the slight hook-like end of a vireo. The head was topped with a reddish-brown cap. There was a pale yellow "eye-brow" and a dark line that ran through the eye of the bird. The bill of the bird was almost as long as the eye-line. The back and wings of the bird were grayish-brown. However, unlike the previous bird, the throat of this specimen was noticeably yellow and the breast and belly

were a "dirty yellow." It was a much darker or dirtier-looking breast and belly than that of the Clark's Valley bird. The legs on this specimen tended to an orangish hue.

Let me know if you need any other information from me concerning these birds. The Dauphin County specimen was a life bird for me and seeing a second, and somewhat different, specimen only three days later was a real bonus for me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark A. McConaughy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark A. McConaughy
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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 9 May 1998 to 18 May 1998

Location: LOYALHANNA WETLANDS

County: WESTMORELAND

Observer(s): Mark McConaughy, John Fedak

Date of Submission: 1998

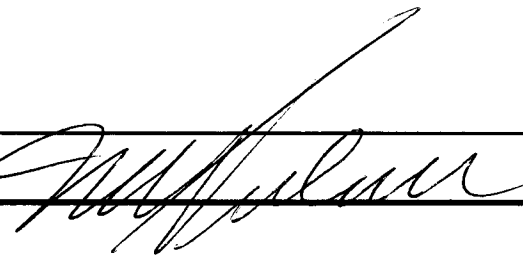
Submitted by: Mark McConaughy, John Fedak

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO YES SPECIMEN NO RECORDING VIDEO

| Member | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A | | | | Ab sta in |
|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|-----------------|
| | | | | | 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:

9/18/00