



756-01-2003

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – Allegheny County

Written May 26, 2:00am for PORC

this e-mail is my documentation for a Swainson's Warbler found in Allegheny County. The bird was present at Sewickley Heights Park in northwestern Allegheny County from around May 8 to May 16. I observed it on about 4 different days. While I was there, it sang frequently and moved around a lot, but was always within reasonable hearing distance from the small pond along the main road in the park. Its territory was a large L-shape extending from Black Cherry Trail, behind the pond and across the road into Arrowwood Trail. When it sang, it often kept one perch for several minutes. It sang while on the ground and while as high as about twenty feet, averaging much less than 15 feet high. The first time I saw it, I only saw it briefly. After singing a while, it flew in front of me and then into the woods. It was a small, dark bird whose flight was choppy, bottom-heavy like that of a song sparrow rather than fluid like a Yellow Warbler. That's all I saw the first day. The song began like a LoWa and ended more abruptly. My personal mnemonic for its song was "seee-er seee-er s-seecher". Mike Fialkovich is submitting a sound recording. My focus was on trying to photograph the bird rather than write a wordy description. The attached photographs should be conclusive. I will note that the underside of the bird was not streaked or spotted, but dingy, to call it blurry streaking would be a stretch. It was never near another bird for size comparison, but it was well within "warbler size range". Brown and off-white were the only feather colors noted. Some of the photos show the species "rustier cap".

These photographs were taken on May 16 on Arrowwood Trail with a 400mm lens and maybe a 1.4X teleconverter. Kodak E-200 slide film pushed one stop at ISO 320.

Scott Kinzey





**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round <sup>ONE</sup>~~TWO~~**

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

Date of Sighting: 8 May 2003 to 16 May 2003

Location: SWEICKLEY HEIGHTS PARK

County: ALLEGHENY

Observer(s): Scott Kinzey

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Scott Kinzey

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 5/2/04