

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2015-12-24 15:01:27
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Mike Fialkovich
<b>E-mail</b>	mpfial@verizon.net
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 805 Beulah Road City: Pittsburgh State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15235 Country: United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Holly Merker, several others who I do not know.
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Anhinga
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Anhinga anhinga
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Immature or adult female
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	10-21-2015 10:30 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
<b>County</b>	Chester
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Flying over the main impoundment at the refuge
<b>Habitat</b>	Shallow pond, marsh
<b>Distance to bird</b>	Flying overhead, difficult to assess distance straight up.
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Excellent, clear blue skies.
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Leica Ultravid 10X42 binoculars
<b>Description</b>	<p>Long, thin bird, rather large; larger than a Double-crested Cormorant.</p> <p>Long thin neck, long thin bill. Tail long, fanned slightly in flight.</p> <p>Body, underparts, underside of wings and tail black.</p> <p>Head and neck tan with the tan extending to the upperbreast with a neatly defined border against the black of the breast.</p> <p>Tail with narrow brownish/tan border (formed by tips of retrices).</p> <p>When first seen in flight, the silvery white wing coverts were visible on the upperside of the wings. One of my photos shows this characteristic.</p>

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

Bird seen in flight only. It appeared soaring just above the treetops as it has been doing on a daily basis for several weeks.

It continued to gain altitude, soared overhead, then returned and made a quick descent to its apparent resting place behind the tree line. Seen once again in flight near the parking lot.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

Perhaps similar to Double-crested Cormorant but build completely different. Much thinner overall and larger than DC Cormorant. In fact, I saw a few cormorants flying over before I saw the Anhinga and they are thicker necked, heavier in build, much shorter tailed and the neck is black. The bills are not as long and daggerlike as in Anhinga. Tails were not fanned and lacked pale tips to the retrices.

**Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:**

This is probably the same bird that was seen during a PSO field trip at this site in May 2015. There were ebird reports starting in August and then posts to the PA Birds listserv in September, resulting in many people taking a trip to the refuge to see it.

**Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)**

Yes. Seen and photographed by many before I saw it, plus it's so distinctive compared to anything else that normally occurs in the area.

**After**

Sibley Guide to Birds

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**

Photograph



[Anhinga, John Heinz Refuge 10-21-2015 \(1\).JPG](#)



[Anhinga, John Heinz Refuge 10-21-2015 \(2\).JPG](#)



[Anhinga, John Heinz Refuge 10-21-2015 \(3\).JPG](#)