

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-06-24 16:35:43
Observer's Name	Carrie Bell
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Phone	2153273034
Observer's Address	Street Address: 721 Rosemont Ave City: Lansdale State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 19446 Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Swallow-tailed kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Elanoides forficatus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	06-06-2016 9:40 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S30103905
County	Montgomery
Location (City, Borough, Township)	not sure if it's Upper Gwynedd Twp or North Wales
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Dodsworth Run Preserve
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.219520, -75.284215
Habitat	Flew over tree tops along the Wissahickon Creek with two turkey vultures.
Distance to bird	Unknown
Viewing conditions	Clear and windy, which is why I saw it. I had seen hawks, vultures, and a great blue heron in flight and was watching the sky.
Optical equipment used	Leica Ultravid 8x32 binoculars
Description	Whitish bird appeared with two turkey vultures, but was noticeably smaller with more slender body and wings. Trailing edges of wings, ends of wings and long forked tail were clearly black. View was unmistakable, but it didn't hang around long enough to get a photo.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Only saw it in flight, as it appeared from over the treetops, circled higher and further away, and disappeared over the same treetops.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	It was distinctly different from the turkey vultures and initially appeared whitish until I got my bins on it, and the edges of the wings and tail were clearly black and the long forked tail was obvious.

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

Yes. I've seen them before and the look I got was good enough to satisfy me that I was correct. I never would have reported it if I had not been sure, and communicated my sighting to August Mirabella before reporting it.

During

Sibley birding app for iPhone

After

Sibley Field Guide to Birds

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