

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2017-09-05 19:42:28
Observer's Name	Janet Kuehl
E-mail	tjkuehl@comcast.net
Phone	724-325-1918
Observer's Address	3615 Hilty Road Exp[ort Pa 15632 United States
Names of additional observers	Bob Stewart Jim Rocco
Species (Common Name)	Swallow-tailed Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Elanoides forficatus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	08-28-2017 10:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Somerset/Bedford
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Central City
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Allegheny Front Hawkwatch
Habitat	Mountain Ridge
Distance to bird	30 feet to overhead as bird passed to the south
Viewing conditions	Excellant sun illiminated bird well
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 10/50 binoculars
Description	The bird was observed at " the notch " a V shaped tree lined formation that on an east wind is a common place for our raptors to appear. Two young redtails, probably local, dove at it and it briefly disappeared but not before I observed a glistening white head.It then reappeared and I saw the bird in full view, white and black body, distinctive forked tail, floating flight, and elegant body. I alerted the other observers that it was a swallow-tailed kite It was seen well by all for at least 10 seconds as it floated over us heading south.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	flight was impeded briefly by the two young redtails could have caused a direct getaway instead of a little soaring for a better photo-op very floating flight pattern wasted little time and was on its way determined

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

I have seen this bird well in Florida and Central America

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

This was an exceptional day for August at our site We had 25 Bald Eagles, 1 Peregrine, 11 Osprey, 26 Broadwings for total of 79 birds. Very strong east winds and very similar number the previous day. Just sorry that not being a photographer and fumbling with gloves and coat pocket (it was cold) that couldn't a picture with my phone though I knew the importance. But I have no doubt at all of my call.

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

Yes spectacular looks and this is not a new bird for me as mentioned above

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