

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2017-10-30 13:16:14
Observer's Name	Anthony Croasdale
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Phone	2153017940
Observer's Address	4841 Walton Ave Philadelphia PA 19143 United States
Names of additional observers	anthony Croasdale
Species (Common Name)	Swainson's Hawk
Species (Scientific Name)	Buteo swainsoni
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	juvenile
Observation Date and Time	10-25-2017 3:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S40138372
County	Philadelphia
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Philadelphia
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	100 Spring Ln, Philadelphia, PA 19128
GPS coordinates of sighting	40°03'41.3"N 75°15'33.3"W
Habitat	Hay field
Distance to bird	Spotted perhaps 300 meters away, was directly overhead then circled off and out of sight
Viewing conditions	partly sunny
Optical equipment used	Leica Trinovid 8x42

Description	I first spotted the bird soaring with black and turkey vultures all just silhouettes, at first sighting it was difficult to tell apart from TVs. I noticed that one of the birds was a raptor. I was hoping it was a zone-tailed! It had slender wings held in a noticeable dihedral. However when the light conditions changed I could see that its were almost two-tone, flight feathers darker than underwing coverts. Noticeable hood with paler throat. Underbelly was lightly marked with no belly-band or 'windows'.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	It was soaring with TUVU and BLVUs, occasionally harassing the vultures. It circled overhead then out of sight.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	It 'felt' less robust than a red-tail. It appeared over all gray and more lightly marked and had the wrong tail-pattern for the the expected buteos. Its wings were held in a noticeable dihedral. It had no 'windows' in the wings like RSHA nor any 'belly'band' like a RTHA.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	I believed this was a juvenile Swainson's hawk but without a picture declined to report as anything but an interesting buteo. However this or an extremely similar bird was photographed at Ashland Hawkwatch in DE the next day and confirmed as a SWHA.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes. I have ruled out all other possibilities, the field marks are consistent with SWHA
During	Sibley phone app
After	Hawks from Every Angle: How to Identify Raptors In Flight-Ligouri; The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors-Sullivan, Crossley, Ligouri
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