

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-04-19 07:17:59
Observer's Name	Ian Henderson
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Phone	6107527921
Observer's Address	Street Address: 761 Concord Road City: Glen Mills State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 19342 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	None
Species (Common Name)	Black Browed Albatross
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Thelassarche melanophris</i>
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Apparent adult
Observation Date and Time	04-01-2015 11:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Delaware
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Glen Mills
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	In skies above Scott Road
GPS coordinates of sighting	Observer standing at W 39.882678, -75.515046, bird was approximately 700 ft. above W 39.883773, -75.515593
Habitat	Well inland, in sky above suburbs
Distance to bird	Estimated 900-1000 ft.
Viewing conditions	Moderate snowfall, monotonous grey skies but still able to clearly see bird's distinctive shape and some features
Optical equipment used	Naked eye
Description	Distinctive shape was most apparent; bird had extremely long and tapering wings as well as a relatively short and stubby tail. Bird soared with a distinctive "crook" in the wings. Underside was nearly pure white, but black bordered the edges of the wings.

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

Soaring broken up by occasional flapping, bird was observed for approximately two-three minutes. Bird held wings "curled" slightly downward as it soared.

Bird stayed for about two minutes before continuing southeast and disappearing over house.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

No other bird (or, at least, those typical to this region) has such a shape -- once more, the extremely long and tapering wings were distinctive (as well as the large overall size). Snow white underbody was also crucial in making a somewhat informed decision as to the bird's identity.

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

Sketch was made immediately following sighting.

I am 23 and have been birding for nearly 19 years. I am quite familiar with the species native to this region. What I observed did not fit the qualifications of any regional bird of prey (the extremely long and tapering wings, the entirely white underbelly, etc.).

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

No, not positive. Obviously, an albatross sighting of any kind in the northeast Atlantic is major. An albatross sighting from shore would be even bigger news. An albatross sighting inland over a quiet suburb ninety miles from the coast is a ludicrous proposal. However, based on memory and the sketch produced immediately after the sighting, an albatross is the only bird that suits the size, behavior, and distinctive shape of the bird. Species is less certain.

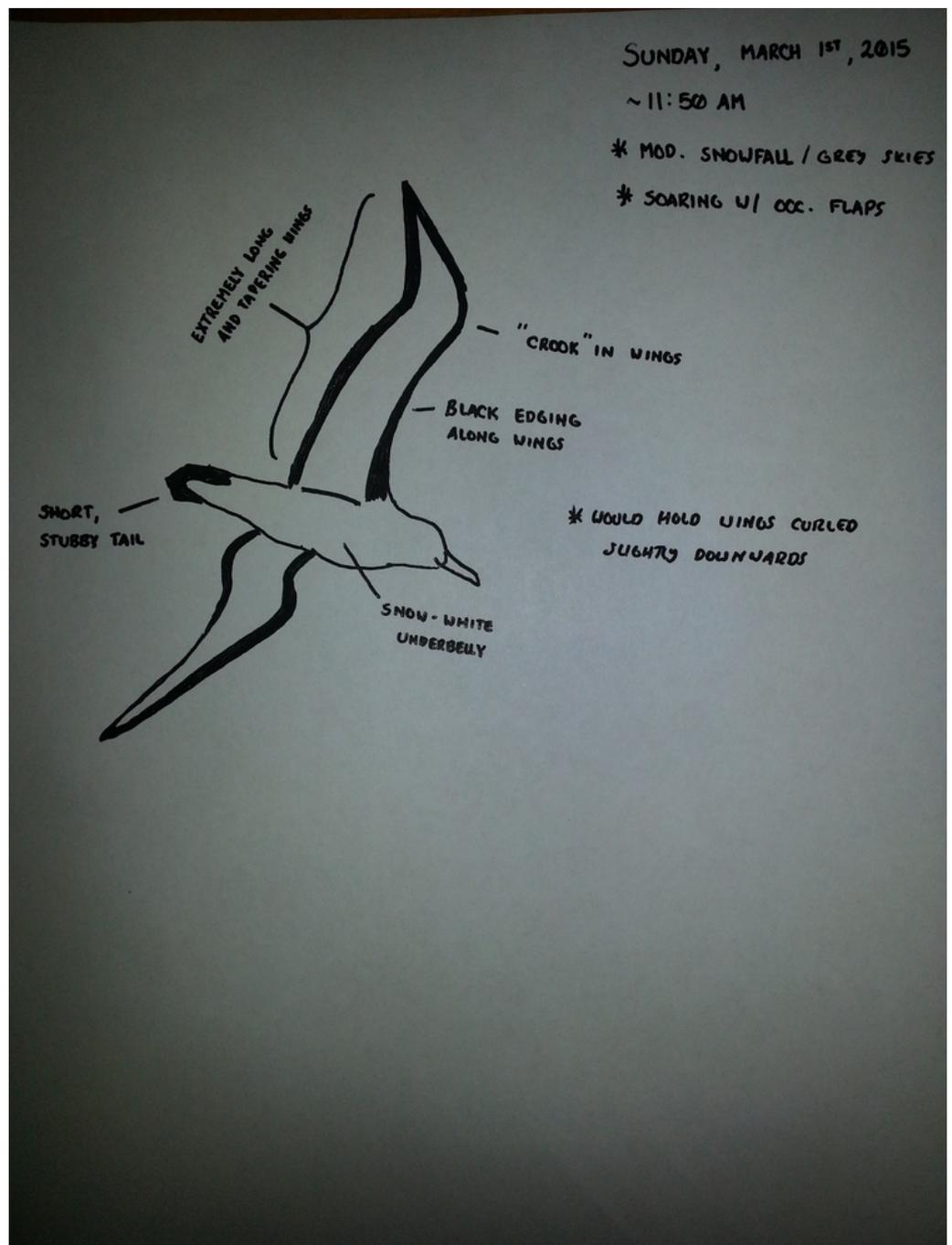
After

National Geographic Field Guide (4th edition), Sibley Field Guide, internet resources

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Drawing

Upload images, audio, video
or drawings



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