

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-12-01 15:27:19
Observer's Name	Cortney Albert
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Observer's Address	405 E Ave Apt. B Steelton Pennsylvania 17113 United States
Names of additional observers	Matthew Kulbacki
Species (Common Name)	White tailed Hawk
Species (Scientific Name)	Geranoaetus albicaudatus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	12-01-2016 2:10 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Dauphin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Hershey
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Cornfield near Bachmanville Road
Description	Large hawk. Brownish head and back. White underside. Brilliant white, large and fanned tail with black band near tip.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was spotted in a cornfield on the side of the road about 20 yards away. Bird soared into the air hesitated near a PowerLine as if it would land then circled back around for a nearby tree where visibility was lost.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Local red tails and sharp shins are common in the area but the brilliant bright white tail and large size of this bird was enough to pull over immediately to investigate. Although the underside was white the top of the head was not thus eliminating eagle.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	I am not an expert or even a novice but hike frequently in the area and never have seen a bird of this description. When I researched raptor with white tail and belly I discovered the white tailed hawk. Surprisingly my research pointed out this bird is common in Texas and South America. This is the reason I looked up rare bird sightings to get a clearer answer and to submit my observation. Hope this helps.
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