

WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species: Swallow-tailed kite Number: (leave blank) **WVBC 2019-4**
Location: Red Sulphur Springs, Monroe Co Date: 7/5/19 Time: 1:00 pm
Bird Seen: 1:00 pm To: 1:30 pm Age/Sex: Adult

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings **WILL NOT BE RETURNED** but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

Smaller than nearby Turkey Vultures
~~Head~~ Deeply forked tail
Long wings
Black & white in color

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

Forked black tail
White head & body (underside)
Back edge of wings black
later views at eye level could see black on back

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

NONE

Description of behavior:

Flew similar to a swallow, making large circles. At one point reached a foot out & seemed to catch and eat something. In flight entire time.

Habitat: (General and Specific)

Roadside

Narrow margin of vegetation along sides of road. Brush to trees of 40'-50'.
East side hay fields & farms along Indian Creek. West side rolling hay fields. Some openings in vegetation for access to hay fields & farms.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

8x40 b. No. 20/1

Sky partly cloudy but good sun on the bird.
1st view bird was about 50' above truck but black & white coloring plus long wings and forked tail obvious against blue sky. With bare eyes & even though I was driving.
Additional views ranged from about 100' - 4/5 mile eye level or higher.

Previous experience with this species:

Life bird for Judy
I saw the one in Elmwood, Wayne Co. 8/27/07

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

~~Redstart~~ ~~Blue Jay~~ ~~Blue Jay~~

To quote Sibley "unmistakable"

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

Judy M. Phillips



Additional observer signature:



Additional observer signature:



Additional observer signature:



Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and especially how did these influence this description:

Had Sibley guide with us.

At home looked at ~~Crossley~~ Raptors, National Geographic, Crossley

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Went through details in my head as driving home. Wrote them down about an hour after seeing the bird.

Name:

James D. Phillips

Address:

Date:

7/8/19

Signature:

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee
Attn: Wil Hershberger
170 Stallion Ct.
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Or E-mail to:
wilhershberger@mac.com

Please use the space below to add any appropriate details you feel were missing from the above form or to expand on any answers whose allotted space was insufficient for a complete response:

Bird was on east side of Rt. 12 just north of Red Sulphur Springs & the pumpkin farm. After we saw it, we found a place to turn around, came back & parked at jct. of Rt. 12 and Imagination Farm ~~on~~ lane. Sighted bird behind 2 trailers on east side of Rt. 12.

Watched it for 10 minutes or so. Then it headed north, we followed by having sight of it through the trees. Parked at opening to a hay field and watched it the rest of the time. It went behind some trees. We waited 10-15 and didn't see it again.

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee
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