

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTATION FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

Submitted to Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC)

**IORC RECORD
NUMBER:**

This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):

Unusual species; Unusual date; Unusual number;
 Unusual plumage; Unusual breeding record; Christmas Count record; Spring Count record;
 Breeding Census record; Other: _____

1. **SPECIES:** Swallow-tailed Kite _____
2. **Number of birds:** 1 _____ **Age/sex/plumage:** Adult _____
3. **Date(s):** 8/29/16 _____
4. **Location (include county):** 1401 Devonshire Drive, Champaign (Champaign County) _____
5. **Observers:** TJ Blakeman _____

Documenter: Your name: Carl Giometti _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Others agreeing with identification: General consensus based on photographs posted online _____

Observers NOT agreeing with identification: _____

6. **Description of bird, including size; shape; proportions; details of both color and patterns on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, undertail, wings, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts (bill, eye, legs and feet). Include only details actually seen in the field:**

Bird not seen in field by Documenter. The photographs represent the only field note/recording made by the observer.

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Species: STKI _____ **Date seen:** 8/29/16 _____ **Documenter:** Carl Giometti _____

7. Description of behavior:

Perched on treetop. Bird did not take flight for the duration of the observation.

8. Description of vocalizations:

None reported by the observer.

9. Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):

Suburban housing setting adjacent to open farm fields. Isolated trees between 20-50 feet in height with lower clumps of shrubs and typical landscaping.

10. Viewing conditions:

Optical equipment used for observation (type, power): Naked eye/iPhone camera _____

Distance/how measured? Unknown _____

Time(s) of observation: 7:45am _____ **Total time of observation:** 5-10 minutes _____

Weather (including regional or national weather patterns if relevant)/ sky conditions/ relative position of the sun: (From historical weather data) Hi/Lo: 88/68 No precipitation, winds Easterly at 4 mph with gusts to 14 mph _____

11. Previous experience with this species and similar species:

Observer had seen a Swallow-tailed Kite in the same area the previous year (record accepted by IORC).

12. Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids (use additional paper, if necessary):

No other medium-large bird has a white body/black wings with a deeply forked tail.

Swallow-tailed Kite is not known to hybridize with any other species.

13. Where photos obtained? Yes ___ If so, by whom? Observer (TJ Blakeman) Attached? Yes ___

14. Books & illustrations consulted, and advice received. How did these influence this description?

The observer consulted the documenter (Carl Giometti) immediately upon photographing. The documenter is relying on the photographs obtained to complete this report.

15. How long after the observation were field notes recorded? 15 minutes _____

16. How long after observation was this form completed? Approx. 3 weeks. _____

17. Additional remarks:

Signed:  _____ **Date:** 9/16/16 _____



