

**IORC DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS
IORC RECORD
NUMBER**

2017-053

UNUSUAL SPECIES

1 SPECIES Anhinga

2 NO OF BIRDS 2

AGE, SEX, PLUMAGE adult males

3 DATE(S) 10/10/17 11:30 AM CDT

4 LOCATION (INCL. COUNTY) Greene Valley FP DuPage County on top of landfill hill

5 NAME Bob Fisher (Karen was the initial observer). Karen first spotted the birds as they soared directly over us, and told Dick and I to LOOK UP!

MAILING ADDRESS

PHONE

Email:

OTHERS AGREEING WITH ID: Karen Fisher, Dick Young

OBSERVERS NOT AGREEING WITH ID: none; only the 3 of us were present

6 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Looked liked 2 crosses as they soared directly above us. Only the undersides were visible. A long skinny straight neck, head and pointed, bill, corresponded with a very long tail. The tail was slightly fanned at the end. The wings were wide and the underwings were totally black, very wide where they joined the body. Both birds were solid black underneath, except for a thin pale terminal band on their tails. The yellow bill was long, thin and daggerlike.

7 DESCRIPTION OF BEHAVIOR

Soared directly overhead from the north, then soared southeast during the 2-3 minutes watching the birds from when first seen by the 3 observers, with both scopes and binoculars. One of the 2 birds descended and appeared to land somewhere along the E branch of the DuPage River, E and S of our hilltop vantage point. We lost track of the other bird at that time.

8 DESCRIPTION OF VOCALIZATION none

9 DESCRIPTION OF IMMEDIATE AND SURROUNDING HABITATS

Top of a landfill hill

10 VIEWING CONDITIONS OPTICAL EQUIPMENT Swarovski scope w/20-60x eyepiece, Svarovski 8.5x42 binocs; 200-300 feet up when directly overhead. An easy binocular view for all 3 of us in very good viewing conditions with no sun glare and excellent contrast against the gray sky.

TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION. 11:30 AM CDT

TOTAL TIME OF OBSERVATION Approx. 2-3 minutes

WEATHER/SKY CONDITIONS/RELATIVE POSITION OF SUN

A moderate to strong NNE wind and overcast.

11 PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES

All 3 observers have seen this species on numerous occasions, both soaring and perched.

We've all seen D-c Cormorants on numerous occasions during the hawkwatch, both individual birds and in migrating flocks.

12 REASONS FOR ELIMINATING OTHER SIMILAR SPECIES OR HYBRID

The main confusion bird would be an adult D-c Cormorant. The very long tail with an easily seen pale terminal band, dagger-like yellow bill, plus the effortless soaring behavior convinced us they were male Anhingas.

13 WERE PHOTOS OBTAINED? no

14 BOOKS AND ILLUSTRATIONS CONSULTED. Sibley

HOW DID THIS INFLUENCE THIS DESCRIPTION? Used to confirm field marks after the fact

15 HOW LONG AFTER OBSERVATION WERE FIELD NOTES RECORDED?

On the spot

16 HOW LONG AFTER OBSERVATION WAS THIS FORM COMPLETED?

12 days after sighting.

17 ADDITIONAL REMARKS This is the 6th time since 2012 hawkwatchers at Greene Valley observed an Anhinga, but the first time for 2 birds together.

SIGNED Bob Fisher

DATE 10/22/17