

# Long Point Bird Observatory Rare Bird Report Form

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Canadian Migration  
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In order that any sight record or banding of a rare species can be confirmed for the historical record, it must be properly documented. LPBO cooperators are therefore asked to complete a form in every case where a rarity is being claimed. Guidance as to which species are considered rare in the Long Point area may be obtained from the LPBO Program Coordinator and in the Long Point Area Checklist found in *A Birding Guide to Long Point Area*. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature.

PLEASE PRINT.

**Species claimed:** Swainson's Hawk

**No. of birds:** 1

**Age:** 1<sup>st</sup> basic

**Sex:** Unknown

**Date(s):** September 23, 2012

**Place:** 50 Front Rd. Port Rowan.

**Time(s) of Observation:** 1130

**Who first saw the bird(s):** Stu Mackenzie

**Who first identified it:** Stu Mackenzie

**Other observers (names and addresses):**

**Any who disagree:** No

**Your previous experience with the species:** Observed a few times in Ontario, and hundreds of thousands in western North America and Central America.

**Your previous experience with any closely similar species:** Extensive

**(a) Formerly:** Extensive

**(b) Same day:** Approximately 150 Broad-winged Hawks, and 6 Red-tailed Hawks at time of observation.

**Species present for comparison:** Broad-winged and Red-tailed hawk.

**Which were beside it for comparison:** Same

**Distance from observer(s):** 1-2km

**How measured:** Estimate

**Optical aids used:** 8.5x42 Swarovski EL

**Weather conditions (at time of observation)**

**Visibility:** 30km

**Cloud Cover:** 4/10

**Lighting:** Bright

**Wind direction and speed:** light-moderate NW winds

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**Weather system preceding the date of observation (if known):** n/a

*Attach weather map clipping from local or national newspaper if relevant.*

**Associated movements of other species:** Fairly large movement of raptors for Port Rowan moving through that day.

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**Circumstances:**

While working in the yard I was taking in a fairly impressive movement of raptors and a few passerines. Around 1130 a large kettle of about 150 birds appeared to the NE and continued west along the lakeshore more or less over my property. They were relatively low to start, probably around 200m, but quickly gained altitude as they made their way through town. I took a good scan through the mostly adult Broad-winged hawks, and one long-winged and darker individual stood out. The kettle began to stream off and I lost track of them a few kilometres west.

**Description:**

**Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions. Include reasons for the elimination of other species.**

Large, long-winged buteo kettling with Broad-winged hawks. The bird was slightly larger and longer-winged than the nearby Broad-wings and more slender and appeared longer winged than the Red-tails, but the slender body, wing shape and posture probably made them just seem longer. The underwings of the flight feathers were dark creating a distinct two-toned appearance to the wing. The underwing coverts were a mottled tawny-brown matching the heavily mottled underparts. Dark brown mottling became denser toward the upper breast and malar region almost creating a subtle breast band. Throat was light. Tail lightly barred.

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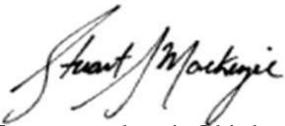
**Did you refer to any guides/other literature:** No

**(a) at the time:** No

**(b) afterwards:** No

**Finally, is this record 100% certain?** Yes

**Signed:**



**E-mail Address:** smackenzie@birdscanada.org

**Date:** January 21, 2013

**Mailing Address:** c/o LPBO