



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

All persons listed were interviewed by Zoë Keliher

The following is a summary of conversation:

CARLOS ARONA

Mr. Arona stated that he was in his front yard, located 0.82 nm south-southeast of the accident site, grilling food when he heard an airplane. He looked up and observed the airplane circling toward the ground, similar to an air show. He described the maneuver to be equivalent to the airplane tumbling forward. The noise emanating from the airplane was cutting in and out, which he stated was likely attributed to the echo off the hills from the rotating position of the airplane's engine or the engine was sputtering. He thought he additionally saw white smoke from the wings.

HOMER HANSEN

Hello Zoë,

Luke forwarded your email with regard to potential migrants flying at elevation. That altitude (>5,000 feet above ground surface) is on the upper range for most of our migrants, but it is possible. For that time of day it is most likely larger sized migratory birds as the passerines are typically night time migrants. Sandhill Cranes are possible, but I would not rule out raptors either, such as Swainson's Hawk, as most large birds will take advantage of thermals to gain elevation for migration which would bring them to this altitude. But this also brings time of day back into consideration. Generally the surface temperature isn't conducive for active use of thermals until after 9:00-10:00 am. So it is a little atypical to expect to see prospective migrants at that altitude that early in the morning.

The below eBird link may be of use. It gives the species for Cochise County based on past observations. You can review the bar chart to see which species are observed in the county for October.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/barchart?r=US-AZ-003&byr=1900&eyr=2017&m=10>

I hope this is of help.

Best regards,
Homer Hansen
Aplomado Environmental LLC

Zoë Keliher
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