

# Second Report of the PA. Ornithological Records Committee May 1991

by Ed Kwater, Chairman

Since the publication of the First Report of the P.O. R. C. (*Pa. Birds 4:8-9*) the Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania has also been published (*Pa. Birds 4:51-53*). The Official List clearly identified those species which are classed as rarities in the state. Rarities require documentation in the form of a specimen, photograph, recording or written description in order to be considered for acceptance by the P.O.R.C. Some species are exempt from rarity status in certain counties. For instance, White Ibis is considered a rarity (and therefore needs documentation to be submitted to P.O.R.C.) in the whole state except Lancaster County, where it is of relatively regular occurrence. Observers are urged to consult the Official List (and the update in *Pa. Birds 4:100*) to determine whether or not a species is a rarity in any particular county.

During the last twelve months, the P.O.R.C. has reviewed twenty-six rarity records (decisions on two of these are pending) compared to twenty-nine during its first year. These numbers do not accurately reflect the number of rare birds being seen. Observers are encouraged to submit documentation for any rarity seen in the state.

On the whole, the quality of documentation received by the committee is improving. Written descriptions are more accurate and this has greatly increased the acceptance rate from 41 % in the first year (April 1989 to May 1990) to 71 % in the second (May 1990 to May 1991). In several cases however the only documentation received for the submission of a rarity record has been a photograph. Very often this has been sufficient to positively clinch the identification of the bird. However in some instances, photographs have provided inconclusive evidence as to the identity of the species. Either the bird has been too small in the frame or the exposure or clarity has been such that a determination cannot be made. It is often extremely difficult to obtain adequate photographs of a rarity. It is therefore extremely important that full written documentation should accompany all photographs (or recording and specimens for that matter) of rare birds.

Systematic List of Accepted Records, by Class (AOU order)

## CLASS I

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus sco/opaceus*). Erie Co. A juvenile at Presque Isle State Park, 22 September 1990 (E. Kwater). Photographs submitted.

**PARASITIC JAEGER** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). Erie Co. Juvenile, Presque Isle State Park, 22 September 1990 (E. Kwater). Photographs submitted.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** (*Larus pipixcan*). Lancaster Co. First-winter at Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, 6 October 1990 (E. Witmer). Photographs submitted.

**ROYAL TERN** (*Sterna maxima*). Philadelphia Co. Juvenile at Tinicum, 15 August 1955 (N. Hoy). Photographs of specimen reviewed. First Pennsylvania record.

**BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** (*Picoides arcticus*). Centre Co. One at Penn State University, December 1981. Photographed on 18 December 1981 (J. McWilliams). First documented Pennsylvania record.

## CLASS II

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING** (*Bombycilla garrulus*). Mercer Co. One near Sagullas Pond 1 January 1990. (H. Bauer, L. Weiland).

**LAWRENCE'S WARBLER** (*Vermivora chrysoptera x pinus*). Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park, 8 September 1991 (J. McWilliams, E. Kwater).

## CLASS III

**HORNED GREBE** (*Podiceps auritus*). York Co. One on the Susquehanna River at Long Level Road on the extremely late date of 25 June 1990 (A. Spiese).

**EARED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*). Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park, 29 October 1990 (J. McWilliams).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** (*Egretta caerulea*). Cumberland Co. One first-year near Newville, 27 July 1990 (D. Henise).

**HARLEQUIN DUCK** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). Erie Co. Female at Presque Isle State Park, 11 November 1990 (J. McWilliams).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). Beaver Co. A first-summer bird near Baden, 26 June 1988 (E. Kwater). This was the latest of a series of records in Pennsylvania in 1988.

**JAEGER** (*Stercorarius sp.*). Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park (either Pomarine or Parasitic), 30 September 1990 (J. McWilliams).

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** (*Larus pipixcan*). Lancaster Co. A first-winter bird at Conejohela Flats, Susquehanna River, 9 September 1990. Possibly the same individual as on 6 October 1990 (see above).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Chester Co. One at Nottingham Park, 9 August 1990 (W. Barber).

- Philadelphia Co. One at Tinicum National Environmental Center, 15 September 1990 (S. Sherman).

**SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** (*Ammodramus ocaudactus*). Crawford Co. One of the inland race (nelsoni), Geneva Marshes, 8 October 1988 (E. Kwater).

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). Lawrence Co. One at a feeder in New Castle, 28 September 1990 (B. Dean).

## List of Records Not Accepted

**Eared Grebe** - 16 September 1990. No locality given. Insufficient detail.

**Ferruginous Hawk** - Dauphin Co. 18 September 1990. Details did not conclusively rule out other species.

**Prairie Falcon** - Mud Level Road, Cumberland Co. 22-24 October 1990. Photographs submitted, but possibility of escape not discounted.

**Royal Tern** - Sunbury Dam, Northumberland Co. 23 September 1989. Insufficient detail.

**Eastern Kingbird** - Codorus State Park, York Co. Early date, 11 March 1990. Insufficient detail.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** - Mt. Joy, Lancaster Co. 22 September 1990. Insufficient detail.

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