

**Seventh Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee -
(P.O.R.C.) - June 1996
Nick Pulcinella, Chairman**

This seventh report of the P.O.R.C. summarizes decisions made from June 1995 to June 1996. During this period 74 records were reviewed. Of these, 56 records of 38 species were accepted, an acceptance rate of 76%. Two new species were added to the Pennsylvania List — **Violet-green Swallow** and **Northern Wheatear**. It also includes the second state record of **Green-tailed Towhee**. The new records, combined with the recent addition of **Bicknell's Thrush**, **Spotted Towhee**, **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, and **Bullock's Oriole** as full species by the American Ornithologists' Union (1995), all previously accepted, increase the number of accepted Pennsylvania species to 390.

P.O.R.C. would like to thank those individuals who documented their sightings and submitted them to the Committee. The Committee encourages anyone who observes any of the review species of the Official State List (**PB 9:118**) or birds not on the State List to submit documentation to P.O.R.C. We continue to encourage observers to document their sightings with photographs or tape recordings whenever possible and to accompany the photograph or recording with written documentation. When written documentation is the only means of identification, we encourage the observer to include as much detail as possible. In addition to details of field marks, information regarding behavior and habitat are also helpful. Sightings can be sent to P.O.R.C. directly or through the various county compilers for *Pennsylvania Birds*.

At the most recent P.O.R.C. meeting held in June 1996, it was decided that safe field characteristics for separating non-vocal Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked Thrush have not been completely established. Because of this, the committee will only

review for acceptance, sightings of possible Bicknell's Thrush that are submitted with either a tape recording of the song or call notes or those sightings which contain wing chord measurements. We still encourage observers to submit written documentation regarding birds they feel may be Bicknell's Thrush. These records will be archived for future review if new information regarding field separation becomes available. Committee member Steve Feldstein will publish an article in *Pa. Birds* regarding the most recent data on this identification challenge.

The committee is also working on producing a list of field identifiable forms for which documentation will be requested. The list of review species of the State List is also available from the committee chairman.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records
Committee

Steven Feldstein
Franklin Haas, Secretary
Roy Ickes, Ph.D.
Ed Kwater
Jerry McWilliams
Nick Pulcinella, Chairman
Paul Schwalbe, Ph D., Treasurer

Classification of Records

Class I - An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph or a diagnostic recording.

Class II - An accepted sight record documented independently, by two or more observers.

Class III - An accepted sight record documented independently by one observer.

CLASS I

EARED GREBE

Podiceps nigricollis

Chester Co. One at the Honey Brook Sewage Plant. 14 October 1994 (F. Haas).

Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park. 6 April 1995 (J. McWilliams).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

Erie Co. Four birds present at Presque Isle State Park. 15-19 May 1995 (J. McWilliams).

WHITE IBIS

Eudocimus albus

Cumberland Co. An immature present at SGL 169. 24 August to 9 September 1995 (D. Henise).

ROSS'S GOOSE

Chen rossii

Montour Co. One at Montour Preserve. 28 October 1995 (P. Schwalbe, G. Schwalbe).

CINNAMON TEAL

Anas cyanoptera

Chester Co. A male present at Octoraro Lake. 25-27 November 1994 (N. Pulcinella, F. Haas).

HARLEQUIN DUCK

Histrionicus histrionicus

Erie Co. A female at Presque Isle State Park. 10 May 1995 (J. McWilliams).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

Elanoides forticatus

Lancaster/Berks Cos. Three individuals present near Knauers and Bowmansville. 23 May to 10 June 1995 (R. Miller, M. Gockley).

RED-TAILED HAWK (dark morph)

Buteo jamaicensis

Centre Co. One present in State College. 27 January to 13 March 1995 (W. Laubscher). The

committee will no longer review records of "dark- morph" Red-tailed Hawk, but will archive the records and acknowledge the sightings in the annual report.

SANDHILL CRANE

Grus canadensis

Montgomery Co. One at Green Lane Reservoir. 6 November 1994 (J. Puschock, J. Hovancik).

Northampton Co. One at Upper Mt. Bethel Twp. 13 October 1994 (R. Wiltraut).

Erie Co. One near McKean. 16 May 1995 (J. McWilliams).

PIPING PLOVER

Charadrius melodus

Erie Co. A juvenile present at Presque Isle State Park. 29 July to 11 August 1995. (J. McWilliams, E. Kwater).

AMERICAN AVOCET

Recurvirostra americana

Somerset Co. Two birds at Lake Somerset. 17 August 1994 (A. Marich)

Allegheny Co. An individual at Imperial. 23 August 1995 (M. Fialkovich).

WILLET

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus

Indiana Co. One at Yellow Creek State Park. 15 May 1994 (G. Cook).

MARbled GODWIT

Limosa fedoa

Clinton Co. One present at South Avis. 11-13 October 1976 (P. Schwalbe).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

Tryngites subruficollis

Lehigh Co. One present at Fogelsville. 27 August 1994 (R. Wiltraut).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

Phalaropus lobatus

Potter Co. One at Greenman Hill. 20-22 September 1995 (D. Hauber).

LAUGHING GULL

Larus atricilla

Warren Co. A juvenile at Kinzua Dam. 25 August to 1 September 1994 (T. Grisez, C Putnam).

Indiana Co. An adult at Yellow Creek State Park. 24 April 1994 (G. Cook).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR

Oenanthe oenanthe

Bucks Co. One photographed at Newtown. 25 September 1995. First documented Pennsylvania record (A. Brady, D. Brady).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Sialia currucoides

Huntingdon Co. An individual photographed at Shirleysburg. 15-16 April 1995 (G. Grove, K. Lebo, R. Schutsky).

BLUE GROSBEAK

Guiraca caerulea

Northampton Co. One at the Martin's Creek Power Plant. 26 July 1995 (R. Wiltraut).

DICKCISSEL

Spiza americana

Lancaster Co. One at Cherry Hill Road. 26 December 1994 (R. Schutsky).

Northampton Co. A male present in Williams Twp. 20-22 September 1994 (J. Puschock).

Adams Co. One at Littlestown Road. 1 June 1995 (A. Kennell).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE

Pipilo chlorurus

Montgomery Co. An individual present at a feeder near Green Lane. 27 November 1994 to 1 March 1995 (L. Rhoads, G. Freed).

DARK-EYED (OREGON) JUNCO

Junco hamulus oregonus

Warren Co. An individual present in Sheffield. 1-31 January 1993 (T. Grisez).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE

Icterus bullockii

Berks Co. One at a feeder near Blue Marsh Lake. 8-18 January 1994 (N. Reifsnyder).

CLASS III

EARED GREBE

Podiceps nigricollis

Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park. 27 October 1994 (J. McWilliams).

GLOSSY IBIS

Plegadis falcinellus

Centre Co. One at the Penn State University Retention Pond. 23 May 1995 (T. Floyd).

MISSISSIPPI KITE

Ictinia mississippiensis

Berks Co. An adult and an immature at Knauers. 27 May 1995 (R. Miller).

WILLET

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus

Franklin Co. Six birds present at the Mt. Parnell Fish Hatchery. 14 May 1995 (C. Garner).

MARbled GODWIT

Limosa fedoa

Cambria Co. A single individual at Prince Gallitzin State Park. 24 April 1995 (J. Salvetti).

Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park. 21 July 1995 (J. McWilliams).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER

Limnodromus scolopaceus

Crawford Co. Eight juvenile birds at Miller's Pond. 7 October 1995 (E. Kwater).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

Phalaropus lobatus

Somerset Co. A juvenile at Lake Somerset. 14 August 1994 (S. Bastian).

PARASITIC JAEGER

Stercorarius parasiticus

Erie Co. Two individuals at Presque Isle State Park. 23 November 1994 (J. McWilliams).

LITTLE GULL

Larus minutus

Berks Co. A single bird at Lake Ontelaunee. 25 April 1995 (R. Wiltraut).

Clarion Co. An adult at New Bethlehem. 4 April 1995 (J. Fedak).

THAYER'S GULL

Larus thayeri

Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park. 30 December 1994 (J. McWilliams).

Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park. 2 February 1995 (J. McWilliams).

Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park. 10 March 1995 (J. McWilliams).

Erie Co. One at Presque Isle State Park. 8 April 1995 (J. McWilliams).

Erie Co. A first-spring bird at Presque Isle State Park. 9 April 1995 (J. McWilliams).

SABINE'S GULL

Larus sabini

Lancaster Co. A juvenile bird at Washington Boro. 5 September 1995 (J. Horn).

SELASPHORUS sp.

Selasphorus sp.

Lehigh Co. One of the Rufous/Allen's type present in South Whitehall Township. 13-15 August 1995 (J. Boyer, N. Boyer, J. Horn).

WESTERN KINGBIRD

Tyrannus verticalis

Lancaster Co. One at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. 15 July 1995 (R. Miller).

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW

Tachycineta thalassina

Carbon Co. A single bird at Penn Forest Reservoir. 15 August 1995. First record for Pennsylvania (J. Horn).

COMMON RAVEN

Corvus corax

Montgomery Co. A single individual at Whitpain Township. 29 April 1995. Though not a rare bird for Pennsylvania, the southerly location is noteworthy (G. Campbell,

K. Campbell).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE

Myadestes townsendi

Schuylkill Co. A single individual at SGL 106. 10 October 1995 (S. Weidensaul).

BREWSTER'S WARBLER

Clarion Co. One at the Beaver Creek Project. 3 September 1995 (M. Buckwalter).

PALM WARBLER

Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea

Erie Co. A single individual of the "eastern" race at Presque Isle State Park. 15 April 1995. Very rare for the location (E. Kwater).

BLUE GROSBEAK

Guiraca caerulea

Cambria Co. One at St. Lawrence. 5 June 1995 (J. Salvetti).

LECONTE'S SPARROW

Ammodramus leconteii

Montgomery Co. An individual at Green Lane. 3 November 1994 (J. Puschock).

List of Records Not Accepted

Magnificent Frigatebird—15 September 1994 at Hawk Mountain, **Berks Co.** Details were too brief to determine identification.

Eurasian Wigeon (female)—18 December 1994 at Prawls Hollow Road, **Lancaster Co.** Details were too brief.

Mississippi Kite—14 May 1994 at Media, **Delaware Co.** Details were too brief.

Swainson's Hawk—10 September 1994 at Stone Mountain, **Huntingdon Co.** Details did not adequately eliminate Red-tailed Hawk or Osprey.

Willet—4 May 1995 at Glades Lake, **Butler Co.** Details were brief and based on a second hand report.

Pomarine Jaeger—29 August to 6 September 1993 at Washington Boro, **Lancaster Co.** Details did not eliminate the possibility

of Parasitic Jaeger.

Western Kingbird—18 December 1994 at Muddy Run Reservoir, **Lancaster Co.** Details did not rule out Couch's or Tropical Kingbird.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—23 May 1995 in Nockamixon Township, **Bucks Co.** Details did not eliminate an immature Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

Yellow "Alaskan" Warbler—1 October 1994 at Bald Eagle State Park, **Centre Co.** Details did not eliminate the possibility of *Dendroica petechia amnicola*.

Black-throated Green Warbler—19 March 1995 in Snyder Township, **Jefferson Co.** Description of a heard-only bird. Details did not eliminate possibility of Black-throated Gray Warbler or a mimic.

Clay-colored Sparrow—1 January 1995 at Bedminster, **Bucks Co.** Details did not rule out the possibility of Chipping Sparrow.

— 9 November 1995 at Media, **Delaware Co.** Details did not rule out Chipping Sparrow.

Lark Sparrow—1 October 1994 at Durham Township, **Bucks Co.** Details too brief.

Dark-eyed "White-winged" Junco—4 April 1994 at Warren, **Warren Co.** Wing chord measurements supplied did not fall within the measurements given for "White-winged" Junco.

Brewer's Blackbird—23 January 1995 at Ply Flats, **Luzerne Co.** Details too brief.

Pine Grosbeak—27 December 1993 in **Indiana Co.** Details too brief.

— 29 September 1995 at Peace Valley County Park, **Bucks Co.** Details too brief. ♀