

Twenty-fourth Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
2017 Records
April 2019
Mike Fialkovich for the Committee

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter “PORC” or “the committee”) evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species or recognizable form that is on the official Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition, the committee reviews documentation for species or subspecies that were previously unrecorded in the Commonwealth. This report covers submissions for 2017 that include 67 records of 46 species. The 62 accepted records represented a 92% acceptance rate. Reports were received from 27 counties.

Highlights include Pink-footed Goose, Purple Gallinule, Purple Sandpiper, Ruff, Long-tailed Jaeger, California Gull, first state record of White-winged Tern, Pacific Loon, third record of the white form of Great Blue Heron, two Roseate Spoonbills (the third and fourth state records), an immature Swainson’s Hawk, Ash-throated Flycatcher, two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, LeConte’s Sparrow, Nelson’s Sparrow (Atlantic race, *subvirgatus*), fourth record of Saltmarsh Sparrow, first accepted North American record of Black-backed Oriole, fifth record of Townsend’s Warbler, Western Tanager and Painted Bunting.

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photos, video, or audio whenever possible. Even poor photos can be diagnostic and elevate a report from Class III to Class I. However, written documentation is also extremely important, as there have been instances where a photograph was not diagnostic, but the report was still accepted as a Class III (sight record) based on the supporting information of the observer’s written account.

Documentation can be submitted to PORC Secretary Ian Gardner at gardnie07@gmail.com or on the PORC section of the PSO Website at this address <<http://jotform.us/form/22068006649151>>.

The Committee

In 2017, four members were serving their third terms; the remainder were serving their first terms. Terms are three years in length; there are no limits to the number of terms served. Committee Members and terms for 2017 are as follows:

Andy McGann – Chair, third term (2016-2019)
Mike Fialkovich – third term (2016-2019)
Dave DeReamus – third term (2016-2019)
Devich Farbotnik – third term (2016-2019)
Holly Merker – first term (2015-2018)
Mike Weible – first term (2015-2018)
Billy Weber – first term (2016-2019)
Ian Gardner – Non-voting Secretary (2015 – Present)

The committee meets face to face annually to discuss committee activities, procedures, second round voting, etc. Ongoing business is covered through email exchanges throughout the year as necessary.

Classification of Records

Class I: An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph, or a diagnostic recording. Abbreviations are (P) photograph, (R) sound recording, (V) video clip, (S) specimen.

Class II: An accepted sight record written up independently by two or more observers.

Class III: An accepted sight record documented by one observer.

Class IV-A: A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer’s identification: the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubts.

Class IV-B: A record for which there exists insufficient evidence for evaluation.

Class IV-C: A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in favor of an identification other than what was submitted.

Class V: The identification is correct, but the bird represents or may represent an escapee from artificial aviculture or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania.

Format of This Report

The records in each section are arranged taxonomically following the 2017 American Ornithological Society Check-list of North American Birds. The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. A (+) after the number signifies accepted historical records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality and county and date(s) when known. In some cases, dates are taken from the seasonal reports published in Pennsylvania Birds, and from incidental information gleaned from the PABIRDS email listserv, the Pennsylvania Birders Facebook Group, the PARBA GroupMe text message alert service, and its regional sub-groups and the eBird database. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the name(s) of the observer(s) who submitted documentation. Following the list of observers is the PORC record number, the record’s classification and the votes for/against. All photographs, video, and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary and archived on the PORC section of the PSO Website.

Abbreviations: Twp. (Township), V (Volume), N (Number), PB (Pennsylvania Birds).

2017 Accepted Records

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (17)

One at Pine Run Dam, *Bucks*, 30 November 2017 (August Mirabella (p); 108-02-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V31:N4.

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 1 December 2017 (August Mirabella (p), Judy Mirabella, Bill Culp; 108-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Possibly the same bird as above. Photo published in PB V32:N1.

Eider sp. (*Somateria sp.*).

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 13 December 2017 (Jerry McWilliams; 145a-01-2017; Class III). 6/0. A female was observed flying past Sunset Point with a small group of Red-breasted Mergansers. The larger size, heavier build and other details were noted in the description, however the bird could not be identified to species.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (32)

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 29 November 2017 (Jerry McWilliams; 149-01-2017; Class III). 6/0. A female observed flying just offshore at Sunset Point with Bufflehead. The size

difference and face pattern was described as well as the differences between this species and female scoters.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (14)

One near Williamsburg, *Blair* 3 June 2017 (Nick Bolgiano, Betsy Manlove; 413-01-2017; Class III). 7/0.

Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) (32+)

One at Carlisle, *Cumberland* 19 May 2017 (Peter Lusardi (r); 463-01-2017; Class I-R). 7/0. One heard calling from the submitter's yard and recorded. *Cumberland* has produced this species regularly in recent years.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) (10)

An adult at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, *Delaware* 16 June 2017 (Kurt Hummel; 242-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V31:N3.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (17)

One along the Susquehanna River at the Norman Wood Bridge in Martic Twp., *Lancaster* 28 April 2017 (Meredith Lombard, Jeff Musser; 268-01-2017; Class III). 7/0. The bird was observed flying along the river but never landed.

Ruff (*Calidrus pugnax*) (9+)

A female at Old Crow Wetland, Smithfield Twp., *Huntingdon* 18 May 2017 (Greg Grove, Deb Grove, Dave Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Dave Kerr (p), Rob Dickerson (p), Carl Engstrom (p), Jon Kauffman (p), Steve Schmidt (p), Eric Hartshaw; 321-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V31:N2. This bird was observed 16-17 May but not identified. It was very well photographed by many observers and not seen after 18 May.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) (61)

One at Lake Somerset, *Somerset* 31 October 2017 (Jeff Payne (v), Jim Moses; 331-01-2017; Class III). 7/0. Slow motion video was submitted allowing careful study.

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 29 April 2017 (Scott Godshall, Paul Driver, 331-02-2017; Class III). 6/0. This park hosted a Red Phalarope last fall.



Image 1. Red Phalarope, Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 29 April 2017. Photo by Scott Godshall.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris martitima*) (4+)

One at Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks* 30 May 2017 (Devich Farbotnik, Ken Reiker (p); 313-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Excellent photographs were taken of this bird before it flew off never to be relocated. This is the second record for *Bucks* and the second state record away from Lake Erie. Photo published in PB V31:N2.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (36)

One at Bradford Dam Reservoir, *Bucks* 31 May 2017 (Devich Farbotnik; 333-01-2015; Class III). 6/0.

One at Van Sciver Lakes in Tullytown, *Bucks* 17 September 2017 (Devich Farbotnik; 333-01-2017; Class III). 6/0. This bird may have been pushed into the area following the remnants of Hurricane Irma.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (6)

One at the river walk in Williamsport, *Lycoming* 26 August 2017 (Maddi Dunlap, David Brown (p); 334-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/1.



Image 2. Long-tailed Jaeger, Williamsport River Walk, *Lycoming* 26 August 2017. Photo by David Brown. The long central retrices can be seen in the photo.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (41)

One at Broadmeadow Farms, *Bucks* 7 April 2017 (Mark Gallagher (p); 344-01-2017; Class III). 7/0.

One on the Delaware River at Morrisville, *Bucks* 7 December 2017 (Armas Hill; 344-02-2017; Class III). 6/1.

An adult in basic plumage at Moraine State Park, *Butler* 26 November 2017 (Geoff Malosh (p); 344-03-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. This site has hosted a Black-headed Gull around the same time for eight years (annually from 2011-2017). Photo published in PB V31:N1.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (20)

An adult at Moraine State Park, *Butler* 3 December 2017 (Geoff Malosh (p); Jeff McDonald, Lauren Nagoda, et al.; 346-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V32:N1. An unexpected discovery and a first for western Pennsylvania away from Erie.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) (15+)

Three at Van Sciver Lakes in Tullytown, *Bucks* 22 May 2017 (Devich Farbotnik; 339-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Three together and all in first winter plumage is a rare occurrence. The birds were photographed resting on a mudflat and in flight. This is bit later than expected for this species to occur in the state and the birds remained at the site for a few weeks.



Image 3. Three first winter Little Gulls at Van Sciver Lakes in Tullytown, Bucks 22 May 2017. Photo by Devich Farbotnik.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) (2)

An adult in the parking lot of Presque Isle Downs Casino in Erie 27 January 2017 and at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 29 January 2017 (Jerry McWilliams (p), David Yeany II (v); 351-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird at the casino was photographed at close range in the parking lot. The video was taken on Erie Bay from Presque Isle State Park. Stills from the video show the diagnostic primary pattern. Photo published in PB V31:N1.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (15+)

A juvenile at Kahle Lake *Clarion/Venango* 6 September 2017 (Geoff Malosh (p); 360-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird was first discovered 5 September and remained until 8 September and observed by many. Photo published in PB V31:N4.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) (1)

An adult at Nessmuk Lake, *Tioga* 10 August 2017 (Rich Hanlon (p), Kathy Riley, John Corcoran; 376-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. An amazing find at a small lake in the mountains of northern Pennsylvania providing the first state record. The bird generated excitement across and beyond the state with visitors from several states. Many observers enjoyed close views of this cooperative individual as it perched on pilings just offshore for extended periods of time. Many photographs were taken and entered in ebird. The bird remained until 13 August. Two photos were published in PB V31:N4.

Least Tern (*Sturnula antillarum*) (26)

One flying past Sunset Point at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 19 October 2017 (Jerry McWilliams; 372-01-2017; Class III). 6/0. The wing and head pattern and small size was noted in the written description.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (15)

One at Lake Wilhelm, Maurice Goddard State Park, *Mercer* 27 November 2018 (Michael David (p), Mike Fialkovich (p); 002-01-2017; Class II). 6/0. The Class II designation was due to details not visible in the photographs submitted, however the descriptions provided additional details. Photo published in PB V31:N4.

Great Blue Heron (White Form) (*Ardea herodias*) (3)

One at East Great Bend Swamp, *Susquehanna* 23 July 2017 (Barbara Stone (p), many observers; 080-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird was seen at this swamp and nearby wetlands for several weeks and was seen for the last time at this location 25 September. There are numerous ebird checklists with photographs from the

numerous observers. Photos show a bulky bill and pale legs eliminating Great Egret. Photo published in PB V31:N3.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (43)

An adult at the Route 54 Wetlands, *Montour* 1 August 2017 (Evan Houston (p); 087-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0.

A juvenile at Lake Redman, *York* 24 July 2017 (Don Weidemann, Dick Cleary, Chuck Berthoud; 087-02-2017; Class III). 6/0. This bird remained in the county at various locations to mid-August. Photos published in PB V31:N3 and V31:N4.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (49)

A juvenile found dead on Mill Creek Road, *Lehigh* 17 July 2017 (Lynn Schaeffer (p); 093-02-2017; Class (I-P)). 6/0. Photographs were submitted; the head and wings were all that remained on this specimen and were enough to identify it.

A juvenile at Trewellyn Park, *Montgomery* 12 July 2017 (Jeffrey Collins (p); 093-03-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V31:N3.

A juvenile at Conewago Creek, *York* 16 July 2017 (Craig Beam (p); 093-04-2017; Class I-P). 6/0.

A juvenile at the intersection at Boiling Springs Road and West Lisburn Road, *Cumberland* 20 July 2017 (Andrew Dapkins (p); 093-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V31:N3.

A juvenile at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 17 August 2017 (Marvin Stauffer (p); 093-05-2017; Class I-P). 7/0.

White Ibis wandered north in a similar pattern to Roseate Spoonbill (see below) in the summer of 2017 with records from New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Delaware, inland Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and inland in Georgia.



Image 4. White Ibis, Conejohela Flats, Lancaster 17 August 2017. Photo by Marvin Stauffer.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) (4)

One at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 15 July 2017 (Mike Epler (p), Zach Millen, Eric Witmer, Tom Garner; 097-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V31:N3.

One along the Conodoguinet Creek, Camp Hill, *Cumberland* 6 August 2017 (Nick Pulcinella (p); 097-02-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. This bird was first discovered 15 July 2017. Three photos published in PB V31:N3.

The extraordinary occurrence of two individuals within days of each other coincided with a movement of this species northward during a drought in the southern states that reduced water levels severely,

resulting in the birds moving north to find suitable habitat. While the bird in *Lancaster* only remained for a day, the bird in *Cumberland* extraordinarily remained at the site for over two months! During the summer of 2017, Roseate Spoonbills were present in New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and other states further south and west.

The submissions represent the third and fourth records in the state and the first since 1968. The previous two records are from Lancaster County in 1884 and Erie County in 1968 (Haas, Haas, 2005).

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (28)

One in Buckingham Twp., *Bucks* 21 May 2017 (Jere Schade; 168-01-2017; Class III). 6/0.

One at Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks* 5 & 8 June 2017 (Fred Zahradnik (p), John Good; 168-02-2017; Class I-P). 6/0.



Image 5. Swallow-tailed Kite, Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks* 5 June 2017. Photo by Fred Zahradnik.

One at Exton Park, *Chester*, 8 June 2017 (John Mercer (p), et al.; 168-03-2017; Class I-P). 6/0.



Image 6. Swallow-tailed Kite, Exton Park, *Chester* 8 June 2017. Photo by John Mercer.

One at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, *Somerset/Bedford*, 28 August 2017 (James Rocco, Bob Stewart, Janet Kuehl; 168-04-2017; Class III). 6/0.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (110)

One at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve, *Montgomery* 19 May 2017 (Matthew Jewell (p); 171-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. One of the few



submissions of this species with good photographic documentation.

Image 7. Mississippi Kite, Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve, *Montgomery* 19 May 2017. Photo by Matthew Jewell. Photo documentation of this species is difficult as they are typically seen briefly passing over hawkwatch sites with little time to identify them and less time to take photographs. Not the case here.

One at the Presque Isle Hawkwatch, *Erie* 17 May 2017 (Jerry McWilliams (p), Joao Taveres; 171-03-2017; Class III). 7/0. A bird flew past the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and a few photos were obtained that showed the distinctive shape of the bird. Photo published in PB V31:N2.

One at Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch, *Delaware* 20 September 2017 (John Mercer (p), Chuck Root, Mike Coll; 171-05-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. As usual this species is most often observed at hawk watches and is often difficult to photograph.

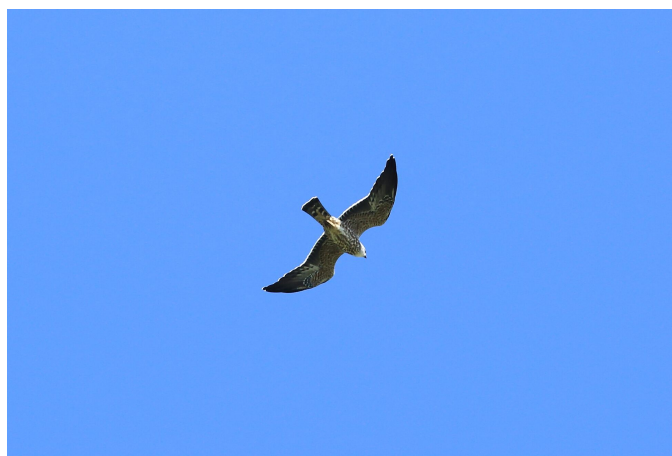


Image 8. Mississippi Kite, Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch, *Delaware* 20 September 2017. Photo by John Mercer. Another successful photo of this species and one of the best photo documented Mississippi Kites ever submitted.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (9+)

A juvenile over Spring Lane and Manatawana Farms, *Philadelphia* 25 October 2017 (Anthony Crosdale, Dan Efroymson; 186-01-2017; Class II). 6/1. A juvenile soaring with vultures seen independently by both observers. Interestingly, a juvenile was photographed and confirmed in Delaware the following day.

A juvenile in North Londonderry Twp., *Lebanon* 2 May 2015 (Brian Newhouse; 186-03-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. The observer could not identify the hawk at the time but fortunately obtained excellent photographs and requested assistance by submitting the photos to ID That PA Bird on facebook. The observer was encouraged to submit the record to the committee for review and documentation. The photos are probably the best ever taken of this species in Pennsylvania. Swainson's Hawks often occur at hawkwatch sites and the observers often concentrate on studying the bird and often don't have time or the conditions aren't right to obtain good photographs at the time of observation.



Image 9. Juvenile Swainson's Hawk with a mobbing American Crow in North Londonderry Twp., *Lebanon* 2 May 2015. Photo by Brian Newhouse. One of several excellent photos submitted of this species that is rarely documented with detailed photos.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (7)

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 17 December 2017 (Joseph Greco (p), Andrew Curtis, John Becker, Tyler Sacks; 545-01-2017; Class III). 6/1.



Image 10. Ash-throated Flycatcher, Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 17 December 2017. Photo by Joseph Greco.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (19+)

One in Danville, *Northumberland* 23 April 2017 (Sean Jeffreys, Todd Jeffreys; 561-01-2017; Class III). 6/1.

One in Bridgewater Twp., *Susquehanna* 12 May 2014 (Bruce McNaught (p); 561-04-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. This record from 2014 was never submitted until now.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (22)

One at Donegal Lake, *Westmoreland* 8 September 2017 (Mike Fialkovich (p); 820-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird was discovered 7 September by Josh Lefever but not relocated after the second day.



Image 11. Lark Sparrow, Donegal Lake, *Westmoreland* 8 September 2017. Photo by Mike Fialkovich.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*) (18)

One at Pennypack Environmental Restoration Trust, *Montgomery*; 4 November 2017 (Paul Driver, Scott Godshall, Anna Mindel; 829-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. Excellent photographs were submitted for this elusive species. Photo published in PB V31:N4.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) (1)

One at Pine Run Dam, *Bucks* 1 November 2017 (August Mirabella (p), Judy Mirabella, Richard Smith, Vicky Smith; Class I-P). 6/0. Good photographs combined with a detailed description provided the evidence needed to identify this to subspecies. Typically the inland subspecies *nelsoni* passes through Pennsylvania during migration.



Image 12. **Nelson's Sparrow** (subspecies *subvirgatus*), Pine Run Dam, *Bucks* 1 November 2017. Photo by August Mirabella.

Saltmarsh Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) (4)

One at Bradford Dam, Warrington Twp., *Bucks* 22 September 2017 (August Mirabella, Scott Godshall (p); 830-01-2017; Class II). 6/1. The description was detailed comparing the differences between Nelson's streaking and breast coloring in particular to arrive at an identification. Unfortunately the photograph submitted was

hampered by glare; however, the two written descriptions were detailed enough for a majority in favor of this identification.

Black-backed Oriole (*Icturus abeleii*) (1)

A male visited a feeder in Sinking Spring, *Berks* 2 February 2017 (Michael Slater (p), Josh Cantor (p), many observers; 874-011-2017; Class I-P). 5/1. This bird was observed by numerous birders during its lengthy stay. The committee researched this species extensively and had lengthy discussions about it. This represented a first state record and a first record for North America. It was subsequently accepted by the ABA Checklist Committee (*Birding*, V50:N6). A photograph was published in PB V31:N1 and two in PB V31:N2. An article was published in the PSO Pileated, V28:N1.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) (5)

One visiting a feeder at a private residence in Bloomsburg, *Columbia* 31 January 2017 (Kathryn Yelinek (p),(v), Karol Pasquinnelli (p); 738-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. The observer was unfamiliar with this species and posted photos and a video to facebook. The photo was not close but the video submitted did show the bird better and photographs posted on ebird were very detailed. Photo published in PB V31:N1.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (43)

A female at Noel Dorwart Park, *Lancaster* 9 May 2017 (Seth McComsey (p), Marvin Stauffer; 780-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0.

A first year male at Plymouth Meeting, *Montgomery* 19 May 2017 (Paul Bernhardt; 780-02-2017; Class III). 6/1.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (15+)

A female at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Lancaster* 31 December 2017 (Jonathan Heller, Larry Bernhardt, Andrew Keister, Pamela Fisher, Marcy Connie; 782-01-2017; Class III). 7/0.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (23)

A male visiting a feeder at a private residence in Brecknock Twp., *Lancaster* 22 January 2017 (Anne Hurst (p); 794-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.

(Votes are listed as for/against. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance).

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

One at Lake Wilhelm, Maurice Goddard State Park, *Mercer* 12 March 2017 (009-01-2017; Class IV-C) 0/6. The photograph submitted shows a Horned Grebe in transitional plumage (with two other Horned Grebes). Birds transitioning into breeding plumage can cause identification confusion.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 2 June 2017 (316-01-2017; Class IV-C). 2/5. A bird was photographed at Gull Point, said to be associating with Dunlin. Unfortunately the photos did not show enough detail due to distance and lighting conditions and the observer was not certain about the identification. The written description did not include enough details regarding the identification to eliminate other species.

Black-browed Albatross (*Thelassarche melanophris*)

One observed in flight over Glen Mills, *Delaware* 1 April 2015 (16a-01-2015; Class IV-C). 0/6. This bird was observed briefly well inland without optics during a moderate snowfall. The basic shape of the bird was described including the long, thin wings and flapping aspect and a sketch drawn immediately following the observation was submitted. The observer admitted uncertainty but stated it didn't fit anything other than an albatross. For such a substantial

record, there was not enough detail to make an informed decision regarding this bird, unfortunately.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

One at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Lancaster/Lebanon* 9 September 2017 (089-01-2017; Class IV-B). 1/5. The description lacked details, and the observer stated they were not sure about the identification.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

One at the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch, *Bedford* 17 September 2017 (171-02-2017; Class IV-B). 1/5. A number of committee members expressed concern regarding the identification due to distance, missing details and the mention of the bird having a white tail when adult Mississippi Kites have dark tails.

One at Militia Hill Hawk Watch, *Montgomery* 16 September 2017 (171-04-2017; Class IV-B). 3/4. The committee was nearly split on this record. While several acknowledged the observer's experience with this species, the distant view and lack of detail including comparisons with other species was not enough for some committee members to eliminate other similar size raptors.

White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)

One observed in flight over Hershey, *Dauphin* 1 December 2016 (187-01-2015; Class IV-C). 0/6. The observer saw a hawk soaring over the area described as having a brownish head and back, white underparts and a white tail. The committee agreed the details were too brief to evaluate a potential state record such as this. In addition, the observer admitted not being an experienced birder but was familiar with the local Red-tailed Hawks and this bird was different. The observer was unaware (prior to checking a reference) the White-tailed Hawk was only found in the U.S. in south Texas. White-tailed Hawks do not have a history of vagrancy. It's possible the bird was a leucistic Red-tailed Hawk.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 7 November 2017 (576-01-2017; Class IV-B). 2/4. This submission went through two rounds of voting. The description seemed to favor Cave Swallow including the time of year, however some committee members would have preferred the observer saw the throat to completely rule out a juvenile Cliff Swallow. There was also concern from some members regarding the distant view and brief time of observation.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)

One at East Fairmount Park, *Philadelphia* 8 September 2017 (Holger Pflücke; 746-01-2017; Class IV-C). 3/4. Some committee members felt the identification was correct, while others would have preferred more details for such a rarity. The bird was noted as bobbing its tail however the viewing time was rather brief and some committee members felt Magnolia Warbler was not completely ruled out.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, because they represent or may represent an escapee or an introduced species not established in Pennsylvania. IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED.

African Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*)

One at a residence in Clay Township, *Butler* 18 February 2017 (Brendyn Baptiste (p); 409a-01-2017; Class V). 0/7. This species is considered an escape in Pennsylvania.

CORRECTION TO 2016 REPORT

The Gyrfalcon in the 2016 PORC Report was reported as a white morph; it was actually a gray morph. This was my error, not the error of the submitters. The record did not receive the details it

should have in my previous report, so a revised entry along with a photograph is below.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) (7+)

A juvenile gray morph near Tylersburg, *Clarion* 20 February 2016 (Philip Smith, Taylor Smith, Laurel Smith (v); 200-01-2016; Class I-V). 6/1. The bird was spotted perched on a power pole. The observers passed it, turned around and returned for a better look and obtained video of the bird. The video shows the bird perched on the pole and eventually flying off. The broad based wings could be seen as the bird took flight as well as the overall heavy build and falcon shape and lack of bold facial pattern.



Gyr Falcon (video capture) near Tylersburg, *Clarion* 20 February 2016. Video by Philip Smith, Taylor Smith, Laurel Smith. The lack of a strong facial pattern and the broad based pointed wings are shown well in the video.

This report brings the committee up to date with rare bird voting and reporting. The committee has acknowledged the lack of annual reports and falling behind in voting to the birding community of Pennsylvania through the PA Birds Listserv and other outlets. We have been committed to getting caught up and current with reviewing rare bird submissions and appreciate the patience of Pennsylvania birders.

The PORC would like to thank all the observers for continuing to submit rare bird documentation to the committee for review during this time.

Reference

Haas, F. C., B. M. Haas. 2005. *Annotated List of the Birds of Pennsylvania Second Edition*. Pennsylvania Biological Survey, Ornithological Technical Committee.

Pittsburgh, PA
mpfial@verizon.net