



149-01-1998

Harlequin Duck

Histrionicus histrionicus

Location: Presque Isle State Park

Date: November 12, 1998

Time: 8:00 to 8:30 AM

Weather: Variably cloudy, wind SW to about 10 mph, waves on the lake about 3 to 4 feet.
Viewing conditions very good.

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular and Tsn 4 Kowa scope at 30X

Details of sighting and description: Greg Cook and I were conducting the waterbird count at Sunset Point when Greg saw a dark duck fly from one breakwater to the next along the shoreline. I saw the bird when it flew to the next breakwater and suspected it was a Harlequin duck because of its preference for the breakwaters; the typical habitat of Harlequins along the coast. When the bird landed I quickly put the scope on the bird and saw the characteristic head shape and markings of a Harlequin Duck. The head had three pale spots. The spot behind the eye was round and white; more prominent than the two in front of the eye. The two spots in front of the eye were dirty white and were oblong and nearly converged to form one spot. Unlike the sloping forehead of Surf Scoter, this bird had a steep forehead, rounded crown, and the bill was short and stubby. The neck was thick and short. The entire body, tail, and spread wings were an even dark brown. See photograph.

The Harlequin Duck remained to December 7, 1998.

I have seen this species along the Atlantic Coast in New Jersey as well as six of the eleven birds that have been recorded in Erie County.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot- Round One

Species: Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

Date of Sighting: 12 November 1998 to 12 November 1998

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams, Rick Wiltraut

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams, Rick Wiltraut

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION NO PHOTO YES SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman	X							
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess	X							
R. Ickes			X					
J. McWilliams	X							
B. Reid	X							
P. Rodewald	X							
TOTALS	5		1					1
DECISION	X							

Comments: 8/10/11

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 8/24/10