

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380

046-01-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name) **Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)**

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS: 1

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S): Adult

DATE OF OBSERVATION:

September 19, 2003 at 6:15-7:00PM

LOCATION:

Gamble Township, Lycoming County

EXACT SITE:

Rose Valley Lake (South boat launch)

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Stephen Pinkerton
1852 Log Run Road
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 494-1308
stevepinkerton@suscom.net

OTHER OBSERVERS: Dave Ferry

HABITAT: Open Lake

DISTANCE TO BIRD:

350-400 yards at first sighting – then was observed at 75 yards when it flew towards us

VIEWING CONDITIONS

There was a light rain due to Hurricane Isabel; however, it was beginning to clear when we observed the bird. We were standing at the boat launch (south) – looking towards the north. The bird stayed between the north and east while being observed.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

Pentax 8x42 DCF and Kowa 81mm scope with a 20x60 lens

DESCRIPTION:

There is little doubt that the bird in question was a storm-petrel. I observed an obvious white rump and dark body. Also very visible were the pale coverts. When the bird flew low to the water, I noticed its wings in a pressed down position. The tail was not notched or forked.

BEHAVIOR:

As I was observing the storm-petrel, a clear pattern of foot pattering was obvious and constant. This seems consistent with Wilson Storm Petrel behavior.

VOCALIZATIONS:

None

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Dave Ferry did take video recording; however, he did mention that due to the weather conditions at the time, identification might be hard with the videotape.

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

Due to the bird not having a notched or forked tail, it could not have been a Leach Storm-Petrel nor a Band-Rumped Storm-Petrel. Also, the foot pattering was so evident it could only lead me to believe that the bird I was observing was a Wilson Storm-Petrel. Also, the other species of storm-petrels are not known to glide with their wings slightly pressed down, as referenced by *Sibley* page 42.

DISCUSSION

As to be expected, Dave and I were quite elated with the spotting of a hurricane bird. Only after we identified the bird, and after Dave spoke with Dan Brauning, did it come to our attention that the Wilson Storm-Petrel species was never recorded alive in Pennsylvania.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES:

My experience with storm-petrels is minimum; however, I've had some experience with Leach Storm-Petrels off the coast of Maine. I also feel with my birding background and years of experience that I was able to identify this bird as a storm-petrel immediately. Only after Dave Ferry and I put our collective skills together were we able to come to the conclusion that this was indeed a Wilson Storm-Petrel.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION?

I am very confident that the bird we observed was a Wilson Storm-Petrel. The pale greater coverts and the constant foot pattering and the lack of notched and forked tail have lead me to only one conclusion – that this was a Wilson's storm-petrel. I feel the fact the many years of birding experience Dave and I have, and the fact that we knew to look for many characteristics in identifying this bird, I am quite confident in the identification of this Wilson Storm-Petrel.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation: The Sibley Guide To Birds

After observation: Peterson Birds of Eastern and Central North America

DATE OF THIS REPORT: September 29, 2003

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER _____



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Wilson's Storm-petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)

Date of Sighting: 19 September 2003 to 19 September 2003

Location: ROSE VALLEY LAKE

County : LYCOMING

Observer(s): David Ferry, Steve Pinkerton

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: David Ferry, Steve Pinkerton,

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armstrong R. WITMER		X						
D. Heathcote					X			
P. Guris				X				
J. Stanley				X				
E. Witmer				X				
R. Leberman								
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS		1		4	X			
DECISION				X				

Comments:

JS - accept as storm-petrel species
 MS - accept as storm-petrel species
 PG - accept as storm-petrel species
 DH - storm-petrel species
 EW - storm-petrel species
 RW - accept as Wilson's SPPE

accept as storm-petrel species

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/27/05