

August 26, 2005

Edward Chubb

Thank you for submitting the description of the storm-petrel you found on Sept. 19, 2003 at Fort Hunter. The record was unanimously accepted as a storm-petrel sp., but the majority of committee members did not feel the description included sufficient details of plumage to rule out other more likely species, especially Band-rumped. I have personally seen Band-rumped Storm-Petrels feeding like a Wilson's on pelagic trips off of North Carolina and according to leaders on those trips, Band-rumps tend to "dissappear" once they join feeding flocks in the wake of the boat. I found this too be quite true, and although I have only seen a handful of the species they are easier to pick out and identify when they fly-by at near-medium distance when the wing-shape and flight style make them more distinctive.

Feeding and flight styles described for storm-petrels and other seabirds are average differences of species in their usual habitats. They are useful for recognizing birds in pelagic conditions but are at best a first hint at an identification and are not diagnostic. This is especially true when trying to identify storm-blown birds in stressed condition in unusual habitats. In these situations it is doubly important to confirm identification with plumage or structural characters. This is not to say that you made a make in identifying this bird, and it is worth mentioning that a unique feature of Hurricane Isabel was the number of Wilson's Storm-Petrel it deposited inland.

Thanks again for taking the time to send the documentation and help document what turned out to be an unprecedented Hurricane fall out.

Sincerely

Matt Sharp
Chair: Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

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
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

046-02-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name) WILSON'S STORM PETREL
Subspecies (if known) —

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) —

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): ADULT

DATE OF OBSERVATION 9/19/03 TIME 4:45-5:15 P.M. EDT

LOCATION (city, borough, township) MIDDLE PAXTON TWP; DAUPHIN CO.; SUS. RIVER

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) SUSQUEHANNA RIVER - FORT HUNTER
BOAT LAUNCH; MIDDLE PAXTON TWP.

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name ED CHUBB
Address 1308 UPTON DR
City HARRISBURG State PA ZIP 17110
e-mail (optional) echubb@dauphinc.org phone (optional) 717-233-4807 w 717-549-5188

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): NONE

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) RIVER

DISTANCE TO BIRD INITIALLY - 1000 YDS+; SECOND - between 400 & 800 YDS.

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) OVERCAST, GRAY - POST
HURRICANE CONDITIONS

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED SWIFT AUDUBON 8.5 X 44

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): INITIAL - COMPLETELY DARK BIRD WITH BOLD WHITE RUMP PATCH; DEFINITELY, BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY LARGER (1"-2") THAN SWALLOWS (SP) IT WAS FLYING WITH; FLIGHT LOW OVER WATER. SECOND OBSERVATION - COMPLETELY DARK BIRD WITH PROMINENT WHITE RUMP PATCH; CONSTANT PATERING OF FEET ON WATER; WINGS HELD STRAIGHT FROM BODY, POINTED DOWN @ 5-8 O'CLOCK; AGAIN SIZE WAS CONFIRMED AS BEING SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN SWALLOWS; TAIL SQUARED

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) INITIAL - AT THIS DISTANCE COULD ONLY OBSERVE LOW FLIGHT PATTERN OVER WATER.
SECOND - CONSTANT PATERING (WALKING ON WATER) OF FEET ON WATER; FLIGHT DURING 2ND OBSERVATION WAS WITH THE INITIAL, ALWAYS LOW OVER WATER (1' OR LESS); NO BOBBING OR DIPPING OF FLIGHT.

VOCALIZATIONS

NONE NOTED

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

NONE

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition NOT DEAD

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) SIZE - SMALLER THAN LEACH'S & BAND RUMPED; BEHAVIOR - CONSTANT PATERING OF FEET - NOT A TRAIT OF LEACH'S OR BAND RUMPED; TAIL SHAPE - SQUARED AS OPPOSED TO LEACH'S FORKED; FLIGHT PATTERN - FLAT NOT BOUNDING OR DIPPING AS IN LEACH'S; NO DARKENING OF CENTRAL AREA OF RUMP PATCH AS IN LEACH'S; SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER THAN BAND RUMPED

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it
IMMEDIATELY AFTER FIRST OBSERVATION, CELL PHONE CONTACT WAS MADE WITH DEWANE HOFFMAN INDICATING I HAD OBSERVED A STORM PETREL SP. IT WAS ONLY AFTER SECOND OBSERVATION THAT I WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM SPECIES WAS WILSON'S; A SECOND CONTACT WAS NOT MADE WITH MR. HOFFMAN AFTER 2ND OBSERVATION OF WILSON'S S.P.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

NONE

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) YES, FOR ABOVE STATED REASONS. - SIZE, BEHAVIOR, FLIGHT PATTERN, RUMP PATCH DESCRIPTION

REFERENCES CONSULTED: PRIOR: NAT'L GEO' AND SIBLEY'S TO ACQUAINT MYSELF WITH VARIOUS SPECIES THAT COULD BE ENCOUNTERED
During observation SIBLEY'S
After observation NAT'L GEO, SIBLEY'S, HARRISON'S - SEABIRDS

DATE OF THIS REPORT: DEC. 2, 2003

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Seward H. Chulch

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: FORT HUNTER

County: DAUPHIN

Observer(s): Ed Chubb

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Ed Chubb

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

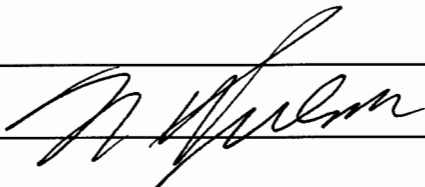
Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead R.W. ITNT				X				
D. Heathcote				X				
P. Guris				X				
J. Stanley			X	X				
E. Witmer				X				
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			2	5				
DECISION				X				

Comments: E. Witmer class III as Storm-petrel sp

2/5

accept as storm-petrel species

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/25/05