

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary  
PA Ornithological Records Committee  
613 Howard Road  
West Chester, PA 19380

067-01-2003

Please consider this letter as a documentation of a sighting of a Brown Pelican on Lake Carey, Wyoming County, on September 25, 2003, 9:00 AM.

I live on the lake and was sitting in a chair when I glanced out at the lake. I noticed a rather large bird on the water. Close enough for me to notice that he was large but not close enough for me to identify what I was seeing. I grabbed my binoculars (Bushnell 8x42) and went out onto the porch.

This cottage is near the middle of the lake (lengthwise). The bird was in the middle of the lake (shore to shore width wise), perhaps 800 feet from my porch.

The bird was definitely a Brown Pelican. It showed no white except perhaps a bit on the very top of the head. It was difficult to distinguish that due to the light. He sat on the water for 4-5 minutes, then lifted up, circled lowly over the water, and came back down just about where he had been. A pelican is pretty easy to identify. I saw the bill from many angles. I never saw him fishing or eating anything.

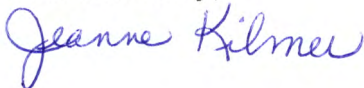
I returned inside the cottage and called my neighbor, Stephen H. Pitkin, who is also a birder, and asked him to go out and clarify my identification. Steve lives in Florida so has much knowledge of pelicans. He was as shocked as I was to see a pelican but he agreed that, indeed, it was definitely a Brown Pelican. As we watched, the bird lifted up and flew low over the lake toward the south. I never saw it again. Total length of time I viewed the bird was probably 20 minutes.

Several hours later I drove around the southern section of the lake (the flow pond) but never saw the pelican.

I hope I have included enough information. If not, please feel free to email me at:

[Hub@dfnow.com](mailto:Hub@dfnow.com)

Most sincerely,



Jeanne Kilmer  
50 SR 1005 Lake Carey  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657  
570-8363280

The bird caught my attention in that he was larger than a Canada goose which I see on the lake daily. Plus he was sitting differently than a Canada goose does. Once I put my binoculars on him, I observed first that he was light brown, no white showing, and his bill was the typical pelican bill. His size was probably almost twice that of a Canada and he showed no black on his neck. As he flew his wingspan was maybe a foot or so larger than a Canadas with no white showing as can be seen in a Canada when he flies. If all else failed in his sighting, the bill, thick at the base and coming to a point and long, down past his neck, was unmistakable...long, held down when on the water and easily identifiable when flying.

Would it help if my neighbor sent you a report? This bird was definitely a Brown Pelican and it would be a shame if it is not recorded.

Please feel free to email me again if this is not satisfactory.

Jeanne

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round One**

Species: Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

Date of Sighting: 25 September 2003 to 25 September 2003

Location: LAKE CAREY

County : WYOMING

Observer(s): Jeanne Kilmer

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Jeanne Kilmer

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

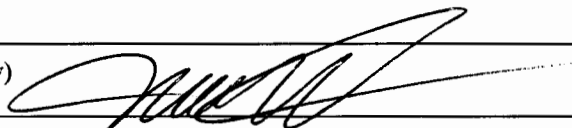
Specimen: No

Recording: ~~Votes~~ *NO*

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
<del>G. Armistead R.W. ITVNT</del>			X					
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer					X			
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			5	1	1			
DECISION								

Comments: *5/2- GO TO 2ND ROUND*

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

*9/16/04*

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round Two

Species: Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis)

Date of Sighting: 25 September 2003 to 25 September 2003

Location: LAKE CAREY

County : WYOMING

Observer(s): Jeanne Kilmer

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Jeanne Kilmer

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

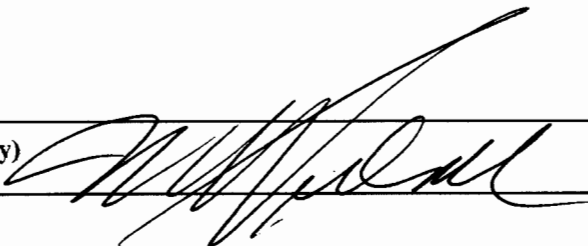
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut			X					
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanlev			X					
E. Witmer				X				
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

3/7/05