

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE  
2469 Hammertown Road  
Narvon, PA 17555

September 23, 1997

Paula Ford  
206 Hickory Street  
Holidaysburg, PA 16648

Dear Paula,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Magnificent Frigatebird you saw flying over the Junior High Athletic Field in Hollidaysburg on 29 October 1995. After careful review and much discussion, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. There was concern among the committee that the description provided did not completely rule out the possibility of similar species. Though Magnificent Frigatebird would be the expected frigatebird to stray to Pennsylvania, there are records of both Greater and Lesser Frigatebirds occurring in Oklahoma and Maine respectively. These two similar species of frigatebirds can be difficult to distinguish from Magnificent even under ideal conditions. The committee felt that it would be better to err on the side of caution and to not accept this record as documented.

This of course, does not mean the bird was not Magnificent Frigatebird, merely, that the record is not beyond reasonable doubt for acceptance.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella  
Chairman

Record # 075-01-1995

9:10 am. 10-29-95

cloudy 075-01-1995 P. FORD

drizzly

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATE BIRD

Temp = 43°F Wind = 14 NW  
(both from tv)

---

BIRD = large, like GBH only  
thinner, longer wings, more  
slender body

Dark, except for fine whitish  
marks on belly & breast.

Very noticeable "elbow" on  
wings - more pronounced than  
Osprey - wings also more slender.

Slight hook on bill. (slender,  
not like GBH)

Tail not forked - very thin  
(almost looked like extended legs)

Flight = sailing, not flapping.

Location = Hollidaysburg, PA  
Junior High Athletic Field

Not directly overhead

. Bird

x  
me

About twice as high as telephone pole.

Prev. exp. with M. Frigatebird =  
Have seen sp. 3x in Florida

Equipment used = NONE

Field guide used = NONE at site,  
none at home until notes were jotted

down

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Magnificent Frigatebird (Fregata magnificens)**

Date of Sighting: **29 October 1995 to 29 October 1995**

Location: **HOLLIDAYSBURG**

County: **BLAIR**

Observer(s): **Paula Ford**

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **Paula Ford**

Written Description: **YES**      Photo: **NO**      Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas				X				
N. Pulcinella						X		
E. Kwater						X		
R. Ickes						X		
G. McWilliams				X				
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein				X				
TOTALS								
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. Haas*

Date:

2-22-97