

Subject: Magnificent Frigatebird by Ron & Karen Wagner (RW,KW)

On September 20, 2008 we arrived a little after 10 AM at the State Hill Hawk Watch sat down on the bench and a woman Linda Frederick (LF) an active hawkwatcher, to our left was looking at a bird circling over the water of the lake. It was dark had pointed wings and at that distance what look to be a long tail. KW had seen Magnificent Frigatebird (MF) before along the Florida coast and thought the flight behavior, the pointed wings and long tail was a MF but could not distinguish the scissor like tail from that distance. Joan Silagy (JS) familiar with the bird along the Florida Gulf coast and recently Pacific coast, arrived at the lookout. Yelling for her attention to hurry over to observe the bird circling over the water above tree tops, then diving. She (JS) immediately sighted the bird and Id it as a MF. We continued to observe the bird flying above the trees in the far horizon you could see the long pointed narrow wings, fork tail a key MF characteristic confirming JS Id. I RW had a brief encounter with this bird along the Florida Keys, continued to observe the MF above and below eye level getting closer dropping down in front of the watch at naked eye level to take a thermal. The entire body was black, no white observed and no distinguish red throat patch, very pointed long wings, the tail scissor like, head was not defined, continued with the body and had a long thin tubenose shape beak. It continued southeast towards the Tulphocken creek climbing higher with the thermal. We call for camera unfortunately no picture was taken, high out of sight of the camera lens for a conclusive well define picture. In conclusion five people saw this Magnificent Frigatebird sitting, Joan Silagy a excellent birder, Karen Wagner, Ron Wagner and a life bird for Linda Frederick and two other birders that were on the lookout.

Magnificent Frigatebird – Blue Marsh Lake

Today (9/20/08) at approximately 10:05 a.m. I was at the Blue Marsh Hawk Lookout, Lower Heidelberg Township, Berks County, looking over the lake at the horizon scanning for hawks. I saw a bird above about 6 Turkey Vultures that definitely was not a vulture. I watched the bird as it got closer and dove down towards the lake where I lost sight of it. Two or 3 minutes later, I saw it again and knew it was some kind of shore or water bird (definitely not a hawk); the long tail puzzled me. I watched it until it disappeared again. More people came to the lookout and the bird appeared again much closer then before and puzzled all of us until Joan Silagy joined us and identified the bird as a Magnificent Frigatebird! It was a life bird for me and a joyous occasion for all of us!

Linda Frederick

Magnificent Frigatebird – Blue Marsh Lake

On September 20, 2008, a little after 10 AM, a friend called me from the State Hill Hawk, Blue Marsh Lake, Berks County, and asked me if I was going to come to the lookout. I had been there earlier and left because not a bird was flying. She said she had a strange bird and thought it was an Anhinga. She said it was going in and out of the haze. I told her I'd be right there and immediately headed to the lake. It's about a ten minute drive from my place. When I arrived she and two friends were yelling for me to hurry. When I stepped out on the lookout I saw this huge, very dark bird circling over the water, then diving down to the lake. The bird was observed above and below eye level. Circling, diving and putting on a beautiful air show, sometimes close, other times high as it circled and then dove.

There was no mistaking the identity of this bird as it was huge in size with long, narrow and very pointed wings. A good 7 plus foot wing span. The tail was long and the scissor-tail was quite obvious as it opened and spread it's tail as it dove and circled. The bird appeared to be in excellent plumage and had no difficulty flying or diving. At times it was a "naked" eye bird. I could see no white on this bird and I was using my Swarovski 10 X42 binoculars. I am also very familiar with this bird having seen it on the Florida gulf coast and again on the Pacific coast while on a birding tour to San Blas, Mexico. The bird appeared to be a male, no white was visible nor was the red pouch visible. In my excitement in trying to make phone calls, I forgot about my camera, which isn't a good one, but when someone yelled we should get a picture, I ran for my camera. By then the bird was circling higher and higher in the sky and all my picture shows is blue sky. The bird headed down the Tulpehocken Creek, in a South, southeasterly direction and we assumed it was following a water course. The total time this bird spent at Blue Marsh was between 40 and 45 minutes. The bird was also observed by Karen and Ron Wagner, excellent birders, who also had seen Magnificent Frigatebirds before. It was a life bird for Linda Frederick and two other birders that were on the lookout.

Joan Silagy
Leesport, PA

Record No: ~~186-01-2008~~

075-01-2008

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round Two

Species: Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Date of Sighting: 20 September 2008 to 20 September 2008

County : BERKS

Location : BLUE MARSH LAKE

Observer(s): Joan Silagy, Karen Wagner, Ron Wagner, Linda Frederick

Date of Submission: 2008

Submitted by: Joan Silagy, Karen Wagner, Ron Wagner, Linda Frederick

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						
A. Guarente		X						
T. Johnson				X				
B. Coulter				X				
C. Rutt K. Fryberg				X				
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh		X						
TOTALS	1	3		3				
DECISION				X				

Comments: 4/3 on 2nd Round
Accept as Frigatebird species

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 9/24/08

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Magnificent Frigatebird Fregata magnificens

Date of Sighting: 20 September 2008 to 20 September 2008

County : BERKS

Location : BLUE MARSH LAKE

Observer(s): Joan Silagy, Karen Wagner, Ron Wagner, Linda Frederick

Date of Submission: 2008

Submitted by: Joan Silagy, Karen Wagner, Ron Wagner, Linda Frederick

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

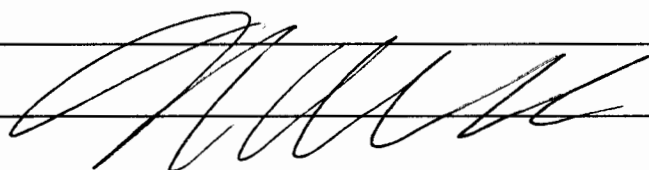
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut		X						
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson				X				
B. Coulter		X						
C. Rutt						X		
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh		X						
TOTALS	2	3		1		1		
DECISION								

Comments: 5/2 GO TO 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/3/08