

Wood Stork 099-01-1996

On Sunday Sept. 22, 1996 while birding the Pumping Station Rd. area of S.G.L. #146 Elizabeth Twp. Lancaster County, PA about 10:15 AM, I observed an imm. Wood Stork resting along the edge of the Hammer Creek. I viewed the Stork for 30 seconds at about 40 yards. Pondering what to do, I stood motionless while the stork lifted off the creek edge, flying past me up the creek (north) beyond where I could see, never getting more than 40 ft. above the creek. I observed the following field marks in overcast with light rain conditions with Leica 10x40 binoculars. A large long-legged wader, somewhat smaller than a Great Blue Heron. Off-white coloration with a dusky head and neck, large broad bill (heavy at the base) that was straw-yellow with a slight downward curve in the last 1/3 of its length. In flight the Stork was all off-white with the exception of the dusky head and neck, and the trailing portion of the wings (primaries thru secondaries) being black along with the tail. The legs and feet were black (dark). After the initial observation I left the area to make phone calls and return with a camera. The Stork was later briefly located up the creek in Lebanon County 12:15 PM by Fred Habegger. To my knowledge no other birders were able to locate the stork. If accepted this would be a first twentieth century record of Wood Stork in Lancaster County.

J. ERIC WITMER
230 MASON DRIVE
EPHRATA, PA 17522

WOOD STORK

9-22-96

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HAMMERCREEK

LERNON COUNTY

HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP

12:25 PM DAWN LIGHT SAVINGS TIME

FLAT LIGHT, 100% CLOUD COVER, MISTY, 7-8 SWOLS, 100'-150' DISTANT

BIRD WAS ALONG EDGE OF STREAM IN LESS THAN 6" OF WATER. WELL CANOPIED SECTION OF CREEK.

HUARKERED DOWN

SIZE APPEARED SIMILAR TO A GREAT BLUE HERON, HEAD AND NECK NOT AS GANGLY AS GREAT BLUE HERON. HEAD ^{NECK} NOT EXTENDED FULLY. WAS IN HUNKED POSITION. LOOKED TURNED HEAD MY DIRECTION AND I STEPPED OUT OF ITS LINE OF SIGHT.

VIEWED BIRD FOR LESS THAN $\frac{1}{2}$ MINUTE. WENT FOR

HELP BY SCRAMBLING UP STEEP BANK. NEVER LOOKED BACK FOR BIRD

HEAD + NECK - MOTTLED DARK BROWN

BODY CREAMY WHITE

LEGS DIDNT NOTICE ANY BRIGHT COLOR

BILL - BASE WAS ABOUT 3 TIMES AS BROAD AS GREAT BLUE HERONS

- HAD A ^{SLIGHT} DOWNTURN NEAR TIP

- COLOR OF SALTY CRACKERS (DIRTY WHITE-TAN COLOR) UNIFORM

BIRD WAS ABOUT $\frac{1}{8}$ MILE SOUTH OF ^{WHERE} A POWER LINE, WITH GREEN METAL SUPPORT TOWERS, CROSS THE HAMMERCREEK.

FRED HABEGGER

33 WOLF RD

AHRON PA 17501

OCT 11 1996

CONDITIONS OF FINDING WOOD STORK

ERIC WITMER SAW IT AROUND 10 AM ON 9-22-96

I WENT LOOKING FOR IT AT 10:30 BY WADING
DOWNSTREAM IN THE HAMMERHEAD WITH HIP WADERS.

ABOUT 8 PEOPLE WERE WAITING FOR ANY NEWS I
MIGHT HAVE OF THE BIRD AS THEY WAITED,
WARDLESS, ALONG THE GRAVEL WARD, LIGHT MIST
FALLING INITIALLY. SUNNY BY LATE AFTERNOON
WHICH BIRD WAS NEVER RELOCATED.

F.H.

099-01-1996

The following was received from Fred Habegger. Original is difficult to read.

Wood Stork 9-22-96

Hammer Creek, Lebanon County, Heidelberg Township

12:25 PM E.D.T.

Flat light, 100% cover, misty, 7X35 binocs, 100-150' distant

Bird was along edge of stream in less than 6" of water. Well canopied section of creek.

Size appeared similar to hunkered down Great Blue Heron. Head and Neck not as gangly as Great Blue Heron. Head & neck not extended fully. Was in hunched position. Turned head my direction and I stepped out of its line of sight. Viewed bird for less than ½ minute. Went for help by scrambling up steep bank. Never looked back for bird.

Head & neck - mottled dark brown

Body - creamy white

Legs - didn't notice any bright color

Bill - base was about 3 times as broad as Great Blue Heron's

- had a slight down turn near tip

- color of saltine crackers (dirty white - tan color) uniform

Bird was about 1/8 mile south of where power lines, with green metal support towers, cross the Hammer Creek.

Fred Habegger

33 Wolf Rd.

Akron, PA 17501

Oct. 11, 1996

Conditions of finding Wood Stork

Eric Witmer saw it around 10 AM on 9/22/96. I went looking for it at 10:30 by wading downstream in the Hammer Creek with hip waders. About 8 people were waiting for any news I might have of the bird as they waited, wader-less, along the gravel road [road]. Light mist falling initially. Sunny by late afternoon when bird was never relocated.

F.H.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

Date of Sighting: 22 September 1996 to 22 September 1996

Location: SGL 146 - ELIZABETH TWP

County: LANCASTER

Observer(s): Eric Witmer

Fred Habegger

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Eric Witmer

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		6	1					
DECISION		X						

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. Haas

Date:

8-16-97