





242-01-1999

Purple Gallinule

Porphyryula martinica

Location: Presque Isle State Park, Erie County

Date: October 14, 1999 (also seen on 10/16/99)

Time: 3:10 to 4:45 PM

Weather: Clear, wind light from the north. Viewing conditions excellent

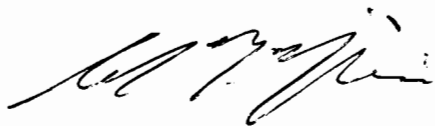
Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular

Viewing distance: As close as 6 feet

Details: At 2:00 PM Randy Neyer, the park naturalist at Presque Isle State Park, called me to report a bird which he felt confident was a juvenile Purple Gallinule. He found the bird around 10:00 AM. He called back at 2:30 PM to tell me the bird was still there, so I took off work and met him there. It was feeding along the north edge of Duck Pond. His identification was correct, it was indeed a juvenile Purple Gallinule. It wasn't bothered by our presence and eventually walked onto the grass and began feeding on grass seeds along the all-purpose trail. Roller bladers and runners were going past the bird within 2 or 3 feet of it and the bird was not frightened away. I took about 4 rolls of film of the gallinule as close as 6 feet away. The bird was about the same size and shape as a Common Moorhen. The outer half of the chicken-like bill was greenish-yellow and the basal half was dusky orange. There was a bald patch on the forehead at the base of the upper mandible. This patch looked gray in poor light, but in full sun it was pale blue. The bird's face, neck, and entire underside, except for the undertail coverts which were very white, was grayish-buff. The top of the head and down the back of the neck was brownish. The iris color was reddish-brown. The folded wings and mantle looked pale brown except in good light when a greenish-blue hue could be seen. The rump, uppertail coverts, and tail were a darker gray-brown than the rest of the upperside and in good light showed a little greenish-blue tint. The dingy yellow-green legs were long and chicken-like and its dirty yellow unwebbed toes were long and thin including the hind toe. The toes were as long as the tarsi.

I have seen and photographed juvenile and adult Purple Gallinules in Florida.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*)

Date of Sighting: 14 October 1999 to 16 October 1999

Location: ERIE

County: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams, Walt Shaffer

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams, Walt Shaffer

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. Couchman	X							
P. Hess	X							
R. Ickes	X							
M. Sharp	X							
B. Reid	X							
P. Rodewald	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

2/25/01