

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2014-07-06 08:58:23
Observer's Name	Mike Fialkovich
E-mail	mpfial@verizon.net
Observer's Address	Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Snowy Plover
Species (Scientific Name)	Charadrius alexandrinus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	07-04-2014 10:00 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Erie
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Presque Isle State Park
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Gull Point
Habitat	Open sandy beach.
Distance to bird	Various: as close as 30 feet and as far as 20 yards.
Viewing conditions	Clear sunny conditions. Excellent viewing although the light was harsh at times.
Optical equipment used	Leica Ultravid 10 x 42 binoculars, Leica Spotting Scope with 20 - 60x zoom eyepiece.
Description	Small plover; about the same size as the Piping Plover it was associating with. Back and wings pale sandy brown, some blackish showed in the primaries. Forehead white. Crown pale sandy brown with dark bar across the front of the crown, above the eyes. White supercilium set off large black eye. Auricular sandy brown like upperparts with dark area at rear (see photo). White throat and underparts; white extends around back of neck. Bill short and black. Legs and feet black. Black band along sides of neck that did not extend around the front of the breast or around the nape.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was running along the beach just above the shoreline in open sand. Typical plover behavior of short quick runs with pauses in between. At one point it sat on the sand and briefly slept. Soon after it resumed the behavior described

above.

**Separation from similar species
(How you eliminated others)**

Piping Plover is similar in color, size and shape but has orange legs and feet, orange bill with black tip, a more extensive breast band that extends further into the breast (or completely across). One was with the Snowy Plover at the time of the observation. Wilson's Plover is larger with darker brown upper parts, broader complete breast band, heavier and longer bill.

**Discussion – anything else
relevant to the observation that
will aid the committee in
evaluating it:**

Thankfully I was able to obtain a few photos through my scope while the bird briefly stopped running around.

**Are you positive of your
identification ? (Why or why not)**

Yes. I've seen Snowy Plovers in California, Texas and Pennsylvania (Allegheny County).

After

Sibley Guide to Birds, National Geographic Guide to Birds of North America Third Edition, Smithsonian Guide to Birds of North America.

**Supporting evidence (check all
that apply)**

Photograph

**Upload images, audio, video or
drawings**



[Snowy Plover, Presque Isle State Park 7-4-2014 \(3\).JPG](#)



[Snowy Plover, Presque Isle State Park 7-4-2014 \(1 Crop\).JPG](#)



[Snowy Plover, Presque Isle State Park 7-4-2014 \(2 Crop\).JPG](#)

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