

258-01-1988

Don Henise
R.D. 2, Box 283
Newville, PA 17241
October 29, 1989

Pa Ornithological Records Committee
% Barbara M. Haas, Secretary
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555

Dear PORC:

I have been meaning to write this letter for some time and have finally forced myself to take the time to do it. Along with my report to the local compiler for Pennsylvania Birds for the summer quarter of 1988, I submitted the following report of a Wilson's Plover in Cumberland County:

September 11th at 7:50 am, again at Kuhn Lake: this time Robyn was with me, but the camera was not. We were headed to church this Sunday morning and had left home a few minutes early, so I suggested to Robyn that we swing past Kuhn Lake. As we drove in we noticed a small shorebird across the lake in almost the same location that the avocet had been seen. We drove around the lake and came to the spot where the bird was standing. Robyn and I both looked at the bird through our binoculars and immediately realized that it was something different. The following are notes from my journal entry for that day:

The bird resembled a small killdeer with only a single breastband. Bill was black, eye was black, white on forehead extended into full eyestripe, back was sandy brown, chest band was black, rest of chest, throat and belly was white, legs were pale yellow. In flight tail was brown with a small amount of white on outer tail feathers. Wing bars were faint. Was seen in flight briefly with several killdeer, appeared to be 2/3 size of killdeer. Bird did not fly when approached, just walked away down the shoreline.

We observed the bird for 5 to 10 minutes from about 20 feet. I got out of the car and approached to within 12 to 15 feet. The only time the bird flew was when a small group of killdeer flew past. The killdeer never landed, the plover circled with the killdeer once and then returned to the shoreline where it had been. Robyn and I came to the conclusion that we had a Wilson's Plover, a life bird for both of us. I told her that no one was going to believe us so we better go home and get the camera. Again we were back in less than 10 minutes and the bird was gone.

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Two reasons for my current letter: the first is that I failed to mention any previous experience with plovers. Obviously we had not seen a Wilson's Plover before, but we had observed Semipalmated Plovers on several occasions while birding on the southern New Jersey coast. This bird was not round and plump like a Semipalmated Plover, but was more slender with longer legs. Secondly, we had the opportunity to travel to the gulf coast of Florida in January of 1989, four months after the original sighting. While we were there we were able to observe several hundred plovers on the southern end of Estero Island. There was a mixture of Wilson's, Semipalmated, Piping and Snowy Plovers. Without any doubt the bird we observed at Kuhn Lake last September was a Wilson's Plover!

I realize that this information is after the fact and I also appreciate the task that you as a committee have in establishing and maintaining an official state list. I hope that this letter will not make your job any more difficult. I felt that I would be negligent if I did not forward this additional information. I apologize for the delay in writing.

Good Birding,

Don Henise

Don Henise

P.S. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME (717) 776-6550

Record No.: 258-01-1988

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Wilson's Plover**

Date of Sighting: **Sept 11, 1988**

Observer(s): **Don Henise**

Date of Submission: **1990**

Submitted by: **Don Henise**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater				X			
B. Haas						X	
F. Haas						X	
R. Leberman							X
G. McWilliams							X
S. Santner				X			
P. Schwalbe							X
TOTALS				2		2	3
DECISION							X

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

11-10-90