

261-01 -1997

## PIPING PLOVER

*Charadrius melodus*

**Location:** Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pa

**Date:** May 8, 1997

**Time:** 8:15 to 8:45 AM

**Weather:** Cloudy (stratus), wind southwesterly to about 10 mph

**Observer:** Jerry McWilliams

**Optics:** Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular and Kowa TSN 4 Spotting Scope at 30X

**Viewing distance:** As close as 100 yards

**Details of sighting & description:** I was conducting the International Shorebird Survey in the special management area of Gull Point when I heard the call of a Piping Plover over head. It gave several call notes that I would describe as "pee-po" as it circled the point. It eventually landed at the south end of region 2 and walked around for about five minutes before flying off.

The Piping Plover was nearly the same size and shape as a Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) except its head seemed a little larger than a Semipalmated Plover's head. The upper parts were pale unmarked gray (same shade as the sand), except for the distinctive black bar that crossed over the forecrown from eye to eye and the complete black narrow collar that went around the bird at the base of the neck. The collar was narrowest in the front and back of the bird. The bill was short and stubby. The inner half of the bill was orange and the outer half was black. The legs and feet were a brilliant yellow-orange. In flight the wings were black with a narrow white wing stripe crossing the wings at the base of the flight feathers. The rump was white and the tail was dusky and darkest down the central rectrices. The walking and feeding behavior of the bird was similar to that of other species of plover; walk-stop-pick-walk-stop-pick at a leisurely pace. About twenty minutes later, two Piping Plovers were seen flying together. They circled the point twice before leaving in a northerly direction. One bird was calling and flight displaying when it was over the north end of the point.

I am very familiar with Piping Plovers. I have seen them nearly every year at Presque Isle State Park and in coastal sites along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.



**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

Date of Sighting: 8 May 1997 to 8 May 1997

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

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					
P. Schwalbe			X					
K. Parkes			X					
R. Ickes			X					
P. Hess			X					
J. McWilliams			X					X
T. Floyd			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*J C Haas*

Date:

4-19-99