

261-01-2009

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania.

Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

613 Howard Ave.

West Chester, PA 19380

nickpulcinella@verizon.net

SPECIES (common and scientific name) ___Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus)_____

Subspecies (if known) _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ___1___ **SEX(ES)** _____?

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): _____

DATE OF OBSERVATION ___May 4, 2009___ **TIME** ___2 pm___

LOCATION (city, borough, township) ___Erie PA Millcreek Twp._____

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) ___Presque Isle State Park; Gull Point_____

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name ___Julie Dell_____

Address ___10185 Rt._____

City ___Edinboro, _____ State ___PA___ ZIP ___16412_____

e-mail (optional) ___dells1970@verizon.net_____ 814-734-3700_____ phone (optional) _____

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

___Kathleen Ryan (employee at Presque Isle State Park)_____

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Beach_

SEE ATTACHED

VOCALIZATIONS

NONE

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

Had 1 neck ring not 2 like a Killdeer; very lightly colored like sand not dark like a Killdeer

DISCUSSION – Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

_____ dug in sand once

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

_____ Killdeer have nested on our property There were also Killdeer on the same beach that day.

___ **ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ?** (why or why not)

___ Yes, It came within 30 ft. of me, walking right towards me and stopped. Very good look. Also had bands on leg.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation ___ None _____

After observation ___ Before observation I was trained for the Piping Plover Monitor Program. A full 1/2 day of classroom work (including videos of all behaviors, handouts with information and lots of pictures) 1/2 day of field work to identify habitat _____

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 5/7/2009 _____

This account is both Description and Behavior:

My memory of this day is like a video in my mind.....I will recount it as it played out.

We spotted a shore bird near the water. It was feeding between the water's edge and about 4 to 5 feet inland. We were able to approach slowly and put the scope and binocs on it at about 50 to 75 ft away. Here is how the conversation went. "(me) bird..... (Kathleen) very light.....(me) only 1 neck band!.....(Kathleen) it has leg bands!!"

It kept feeding and slowly working down the beach away from us. (sun at 2 o'clock, and over the water) We would follow periodically and move the scope. I was able to see the silver leg band with the Swavorski's, but the scope I was not used to and was having trouble keeping it in view. Kathleen was able to use the scope to see the leg bands. I was recording data on the data sheet as she called out the colors and locations of the bands. It seemed that she was able to look for a very long time. We both felt sure, by that time, that it was a Piping Plover.

The bird was going very far down the beach. Kathleen felt she needed to make a phone call concerning the bird. I kept watch as to where it was while she was on the phone. A gull started to chase the Plover back toward us. I followed it with my binocs and it came very close. Maybe 25 to 30 ft. and walking right toward me. It would stop and go. I could see the complete black neck band, a black "headband" across the forehead, orange bill with a black tip and orange feet. This is the time that I could see the silver leg band "above" the knee. I was not able to see the "ankle" bands that Kathleen saw with the scope. I wrote down which leg the bands were on, but now I have forgotten. It had a sandy colored back.

As it approached me, with the gull still chasing it, Kathleen came back to the scope. She had more time, at a closer distance to observe the color of the bands. The Plover got very close and must have decided he was too close to us and flew out over the water and around us. He landed at the water's edge about 25 to 30ft. from us. He ate for a short time then started to move inland. When he got to dry sand he stopped and "dug" in the sand very briefly, then ran and stopped several times all the while going inland. I remember watching him cross the dry sand and stone area and when he stopped I'd briefly lose sight of him. I thought he blended in perfectly! He ran up a small dune and disappeared into the grasses.

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) Piping plover, Charadrius melodus
Subspecies (if known) _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 **SEX(ES)** M

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): adult in breeding plumage

DATE OF OBSERVATION 4 May 09 **TIME** 2:07 pm

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Erie, Millcreek Twp

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Presque Isle State Park; Gull Point

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name KATHLEEN RYAN
Address 301 PENINSULA DR, SUITE 1
City ERIE State PA ZIP 16505
e-mail (optional) KRYAN@STATE.PA.US phone (optional) 717-833-0793

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):
JULIE DELL

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) _____
SANDY BEACH SHORELINE, IN WASH ZONE

DISTANCE TO BIRD VARIED 40 FT → 15 FT

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) WINDS NE 10-15 MPH
PTLY CLOUDY/SUNNY; SUN WAS IN FRONT OF ME OFF RIGHT
SHOULDER INITIALLY THEN BIRD FLEW BEHIND ME - SUN WAS
THEN AT MY BACK BEHIND LEFT SHOULDER -
OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED NIKON FIELDSCOPE ED 82

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): THE BIRD OBSERVED WAS OBVIOUSLY A PLOVER - IT WAS
DISTINGUISHED FROM OTHER SPECIES IN THE GENUS BY THE LIGHT
COLORATION ON ITS BACK, THE SINGLE BAND ON THE CHEST, AND
SINGLE BAND ON HEAD. ADDITIONALLY IT HAD LEG BANDS.
THE BILL + LEGS WERE BRIGHT ORANGE; BILL TIPPED W/BLACK.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) THE BIRD WAS FORAGING IN THE WASH; RUNNING + STOPPING IN SHORT BURSTS. IT SEEMED TO SCRAPE ONCE, BUT IT WAS UNCLEAR IF IT WAS A TRUE NEST SCRAPING

VOCALIZATIONS N/A

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____
If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) COLOR TOO LIGHT TO BE SEMI PALMATED OR KILL-DEER; ONLY SINGLE BAND ACROSS HEAD + CHEST

DISCUSSION – Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

TRAINING W/ USFWS IN SLEEPING BEAK DUNES

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ? (why or why not) YES.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation _____
After observation _____

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 7 Aug 09

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Kaitlin Ryan

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Piping Plover Charadrius melodus

Date of Sighting: 4 May 2009 to 4 May 2009

County : ERIE

Location : PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): Julie Dell, Kathleen Ryan

Date of Submission: 2009

Submitted by: Julie Dell

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

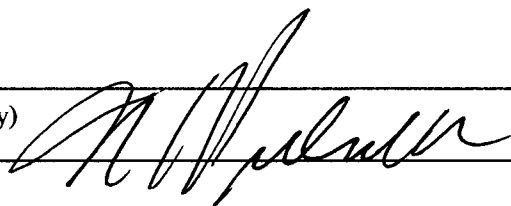
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut			X					
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson			X					
B. Coulter			X					
C. Rutt			X					
J. Heller				X				
G. Malosh			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

9/17/09