







Piping Plover

Charadrius melodus

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Location: Presque Isle S.P., Erie, Pa.

Date: August 14, 2011

Time: 12:30 to 2:30 PM

Weather: cloudy, NNE wind to 10 mph, temp. about 75 F. Occasional light rain showers

Viewing distance: to within 15 feet

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 binocular and unaided eye.

Details: I received images of a banded juvenile Piping Plover from Brian Berchtold in the late afternoon of Saturday, August 13, 2011. He have found the bird around 7:00 AM that morning. Since it was rather late in the day when I received this information I decided to wait until morning to chase this bird. When I arrived at Gull Point on Presque isle State Park at around 12:30 PM, Mike Weible, who assists me with the shorebird surveys at the point, had the bird in view within a few of him. There was no question that this was the bird that Brian had found the day before.

It was about the same size as the nearby adult Semipalmated Plover, but it was pale gray across the back on the crown and face with a pale gray bar on each side of the upper breast just below the neck. There was a narrow white collar that extended around the neck. The entire underside was snow white. The bill was short, stout, and all black. The eyes were dark and stood out against the pale face. The legs and feet were yellow-orange. There was an aluminum band at the base of the left tibia and a blue band around the left tarsus at the foot. There was a red-orange band at the base of the right tibia. In flight there was a distinctive white wing stripe. The base of the tail, as well as the outer rectrices, were white with a dark band that extended across the outer half of the tail. Except for the two all white outer rectrices, the other rectrices were broadly tipped with white that gradually thinned towards the center rectrices. I took several photographs of the plover. This is the first documented juvenile plumaged Piping Plover from Presque isle S.P. since August of 1995.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Piping Plover Charadrius melodus

Date of Sighting: 13 August 2011 to 14 August 2011

County : ERIE

Location : PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): Brian Berchtold, m.obs

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. DeReamus	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
R. Koury	X							
D. Weber	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 710

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 11/20/11