

Submission Date	2012-10-30 21:34:17
Observer's Name	Chris Blazo
E-mail	cblazo@localnet.com
Observer's Address	City: St. Thomas State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17202 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Bill Oyler, Laurie ?
Species (Common Name)	Piping Plover
Species (Scientific Name)	Charadrius melodus
Subspecies (if known)	melodus
Number of individuals	2
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Winter Adult
Observation Date and Time	10-30-2012 5:30 PM
County	Franklin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Hamilton Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Back Creek off of Edgewater Dr.
Habitat	A large flooded pasture with a mature Oak grove on the eastern side along Back Creek.
Distance to bird	200'
Viewing conditions	Overcast. Drizzling. Breezy.
Optical equipment used	Nikon 8x42
Description	A small, chunky, pale bird with no neck and orange legs. The face was very pale and the bill was short and stubby and dark. The upperparts were a light sandy color with a white collar, eyebrow and forehead. The underparts were white.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Typical plover behavior. Constant ground probing and movement. Was being pushed around by the Laughing and Bonaparte's Gulls.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

There were thousands of shorebirds in this spot. So the lighter colored Piping plovers stood out among the Westerns with their shorter bills and larger size. They were about the same size as the Sanderlings, but had a shorter bill and a white color. The Piping plovers also have orange legs and feet.

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

I don't have a camera, but there were two other birders that were there. Bill Oyer was one of them.

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

Yes. I know them from living in Florida for a few years. They were on the beaches in the winter.

During

Stokes Field Guide to Birds of NA

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Submission Date	2012-11-03 10:13:56
Observer's Name	Bill Oyler
E-mail	boylar@knouse.com
Phone	717-360-5191
Observer's Address	Street Address: 1216 Wilson Avenue City: Chambersburg State / Province: Pa Postal / Zip Code: 17201 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Chris Blaza, Lori Nichols
Species (Common Name)	Piping Plover
Species (Scientific Name)	Charadrius melodus
Number of individuals	2
Observation Date and Time	10-30-2012 05:45 PM
County	Franklin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	St Thomas Twp
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	End of Edgewater Drive
Habitat	Flooded pasture meadow along Back Creek
Distance to bird	40 yards
Viewing conditions	Cloudy late afternoon
Optical equipment used	Eagle Optics Vortex scope
Description	small plover structure, chunky, low to the ground, very light upperside, very white underneath, very light face with black eye that stood out by itself, light collar, stubby bill, did not get leg color due to grass and less than ideal light
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	2 bird stayed on grass parts of flooded field moving around very low to the ground compared to other shorebirds They stood out because of being so much lighter than anything else. Looked like to white kids at recess on a inner-city playground.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Eliminated Semipalmated, Wilson's - due to coloration and plain face. Eliminated Snowy due to plain face, stockiness, geography.

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

No photos were taken. The birds were not seen the next morning.

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

Yes. Coloration, structure, plain face with dot of an eye, my previous sightings of species at NJ, Del, Fla coast.

During

none

After

Sibley

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