

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
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

266-01-2003

***** (HARMAPTOPUS PALLIATUS)

SPECIES (common and scientific name) AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER
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): BASIC ADULT

DATE OF OBSERVATION 9/19/03 TIME 2 PM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) TO EAST ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP, BEDFORD CO

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) DUNNINGS CREEP WOTLANDS

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name TOM DICK
Address 125 PUMPER NINE
City CRISNBURG State PA ZIP 15924
e-mail (optional) WETMEADOW phone (optional) 814 (754-5727)
ADL.COM

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): NONE

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) PERCHED ON A LOG IN TURTLE POOL (2 ACRE IMPROVEMENT)

DISTANCE TO BIRD APPROX 200 FOOT

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) TOTAL OVERCAST
35%, VISIBILITY 3 MILE

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED ZEISS 10x40

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):

SEE ATTACHED PAGE

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) _____

VOCALIZATIONS _____

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 of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) _____

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 _____

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

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation _____

After observation _____

DATE OF THIS REPORT: _____

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Thomas M. Paul

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Description:

It was about the size of a whimbrel although more chunky with a black hood that covered head, nape and breast. The iris could be seen as light and yellowish. The bill was long, probably 1 and a 1/3 longer than head, thick and round, and an outstanding orangish red. The bill, of course, was striking, and the most obvious point of identification. The back and wings were brown. Part of the breast and all of the abdomen was white including the wing stripe along the lateral-ventral aspect of the body. The legs appeared light pinkish. The oystercatcher was along side what appeared to be a Roseate Tern.

Behavior: The oystercatcher was always aware of my presence but showed little desire to move. It just reminded me of a weary bird after a long flight. Weight was on the right leg while the left leg was not bearing full weight. I never provoked it to fly. There were some mild alarm notes initially and after the bird became familiar with me it was quiet. The notes I cannot describe.

Separation from similar species: There are no similar species in the east. This bird is a no-brainer when it comes to identification.

Background: I was checking out water control structures at Dunnings Creek Wetlands following Hurricane Isabel's intrusion into our area. The day I checked was the first full day of Isabel before it tracked more westerly. Two inches of rain had fallen, but in the afternoon it was only windy and 100% overcast. I observed a shorebird on a log that jutted out from a bank. Next to it was a resting tern. The oystercatcher was facing away showing the black nape and brown back and wings, however, it turned its head and the bright red bill came into view. I was able to walk around it and the tern, almost 180 degrees.

Previous experience: Besides owning an oyster lease in Chincoteague Island, Virginia where they are a daily experience I also do the Chincoteague and Cape Charles Christmas counts where the oystercatcher counts are quite high.

Yes I'm positive of the species

No references consulted

Date of this report: 9/21/03

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: American Oystercatcher (Haematopus palliatus)

Date of Sighting: 19 September 2003 to 19 September 2003

Location: DUNNINGS CREEK WETLANDS

County : BEDFORD

Observer(s): Tom Dick

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Tom Dick

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

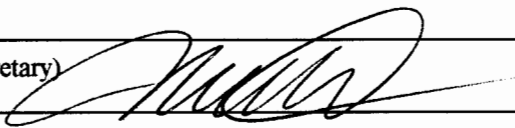
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead R. Wilton			X					
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

9/16/04