

Rare Bird Report

Species: Black-necked Stilt

Location: Bittern Pool, Dunnings Creek Wetlands, Bedford Co.

Time: May 10, 2004 at approximately 3 pm

Bird Description: The stilt was within a small (20) mixed group of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlins, Spotted and Least Sandpipers. It was feeding at the water's edge in a 4 acre pool that was drawn down for shorebirds. It was about comparable size as the Greater Yellowlegs next to it but its contrasty black and white was immediately apparent. The black covered the crown and dropped down like a strap encircling the eye leaving a trapped white patch above the eye. There was a small area of white between the bill and the strap. The black covered the crown, back of neck, upper surface of wings, back and down to the end of the long wings. The rest of the bird was white including the area of white above eye and caudal to bill. The underside and sides of throat, neck, breast, abdomen and vent were white. All of this was balanced on two long red thin legs. It was very graceful and delicate looking moving and feeding along the water's edge staying in one location most of the time. The stilt was observed for approximately 30 minutes.

Distance and Sun Location: The sun was behind me and slightly to my left. The stilt was directly away at an estimated distance of 40 yards.

Optics: 10 by 40 Ranger PC by Celestron binoculars.

Previous experience with this bird: I have seen Black-necked Stilts at Chincoteague, Bombay Hook and the Virginia Conservancy Barrier Islands. I've also seen them in Louisiana and Texas. I'm also an avid birder with over 35 years of birding experience.

Comments: At the time I was identifying odonates with an entomologist named Dennis McNair when I came across Bittern Pool. At this point the drawdown had exposed around 50 feet of exposed mudflats. The first thing I saw was a naked-eye identification of a Black-necked Stilt. The binoculars just smoothed out the details of this beautiful bird. I came back 3 hours later with my husband to photograph the stilt and it was gone. I don't know how long it was there prior to our spotting it.

Sincerely,

Sally Dick
123 Hummer Lane
Cairnbrook, Pa. 15924

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

Date of Sighting: 10 May 2004 to 10 May 2004

Location: DUNNINGS CREEK WETLANDS

County : BEDFORD

Observer(s): Sally Dick

Date of Submission: 2004

Submitted by: Sally Dick

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

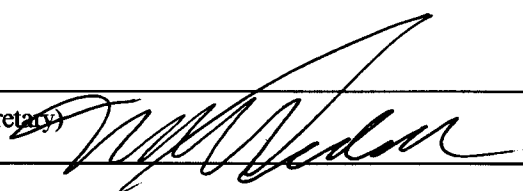
Specimen: No

Recording: No

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

Comments:

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/26/05