

PA Rare Bird Report

| | |
|--|---|
| Submission Date | 2015-06-02 11:17:29 |
| Observer's Name | Richard Cleary |
| E-mail | rlc74@aol.com |
| Phone | 717-244-0261 |
| Observer's Address | Street Address: 615 Wilson Ave City: Dallastown State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17313-9737 Country: United States |
| Names of additional observers | Robin Smith, Carolyn Mathur, Chuck Kling, Mike Yerger |
| Species (Common Name) | Black-necked Stilt |
| Species (Scientific Name) | Himantopus Mexicanus |
| Number of individuals | 1 |
| Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known) | Adult in breeding plumage. Based on dark mantle, adult male. |
| Observation Date and Time | 03-26-2015 1:10 PM |
| Did you submit this sighting to eBird? | Yes |
| Link to eBird checklist | S22531909(Robin Smith, pics avail), S22533966(Carolyn Mathur w/pic), S22528378(Chuck Kling), S22530343(Mike Yerger) |
| County | York |
| Location (City, Borough, Township) | York Township |
| Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road) | Lake Redman Boardwalk |
| GPS coordinates of sighting | 39 degrees, 52 min, 51.9 sec North x 76 degrees 41 min, 14.5 sec West |
| Habitat | Mudflat, shallow water |
| Distance to bird | Approximately 50 yards |
| Viewing conditions | Clear day. |
| Optical equipment used | Swarovski spotting scope 10x - 60x zoom. |
| Description | Stilt "jizz" was obvious. Pink legs, all black mantle, white supercillium spot on black head, and white underside. |
| Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) | Wading and probing with interference from Ring-billed Gulls at times. Interaction with gulls resulted in bird also being seen in flight by at least one observer. Gull interference/harassment may have contributed to the abbreviated stay as bird was not there the next day. |
| Separation from similar species | Plumage is distinctive along with pink legs leaving little room for confusion |

(How you eliminated others)

with other species. Possibly one could argue American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) would need to be eliminated and it was due to full black mantle, head plumage, pink legs, and absence of sharply upturned bill. Eurasian species of Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) eliminated by person (Phil Keener) submitting on behalf of original observer after consulting "Shorebirds of North America" by Paulson and "Birds of Europe" by Mullarney and Zetterstrom.

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

Pretty straightforward. A real surprise, especially for time of year. Appears to establish a new early date for the state by nearly a full month based on a limited search of records. There is a historical ebird entry from July 11, 1996 and other anecdotal evidence from the late Al Spiese's personal logs that this York county location has received visits from this species in the past.

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

Yes, distinctive species in full breeding plumage.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[16940749775_853db0c67c62.jpg](#)

Click to edit

PORC-webform00251