

269-01-1992

AMERICAN AVOCET
Recurvirostra americana

Date; April 22, 1992
Time; 6:20 AM to 6:30 AM
Observer; Jerry McWilliams
Location; Beach 11 on Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA
Viewing conditons; from 300 yards or more to less than 200 feet.
Weather; Mostly clear, very little wind, temp. about 60°F
Optics; 10 X 40 Zeiss Dialyt Binocular
Description; The sun was just above the horizon when I finished photographing the White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) that was silhouette against the morning sky, (the pelican had been discovered late yesterday afternoon) when I heard a familiar, but unexpected series of "wheet" call notes. I tentatively identified the bird by its call notes as an American Avocet when the large (Whimbrel sized) bird appeared flying directly towards me from the southern tip of Gull Point. When it was within 200 to 300 feet of me it turned to my right and gave me a good flight silhouette with the White Pelican directly below it. The thin bill was slightly upturned to about 2/3 of the distance of the bill and becoming strongly upturned on the outer third of the bill tapering to a fine point. The legs were long and extended past the tail. The wing beats were shallow. It circled Gull Point 2 or 3 times giving me views of the upperside. Even in the poor morning light the bold black and white wing pattern was clearly seen. Black inner scapulars contrasting with the white mantle, outer scapulars, and inner coverts as well as the white inner greater coverts and secondaries contrasting with the black median coverts and primaries. The upper tail coverts were white and the head and neck looked dusky in the early morning light. This is the *THIRD* spring record and the 15th ever in Erie Co., PA. I have seen several avocets in Erie Co. and also many in the west.

Jerry McWilliams



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **American Avocet**

Date of Sighting: **22 April 1992 to 22 April 1992**

Observer(s): **Jerry McWilliams**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Jerry McWilliams**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date: 7/2/93