



269-01-1995

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*)  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY

On August 23, 1995, I checked for shorebirds in the scattered ponds in the stripmines at Imperial in Western Allegheny County. From a distance, I noticed a large pale shorebird along the shore of one of the ponds. It showed a black wing with a white stripe and I knew instantly that it was an American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). I moved closer to get a better look and to attempt to photograph the bird. A passing Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) startled the bird and I observed it in flight for approximately 30 seconds as it circled the pond.

I was able to get within approximately 30 feet of the bird and obtained photographs.

DESCRIPTION

A large shorebird (larger than a Godwit), tall and thin. Belly, flanks, and sides white. Wings black with white scapulars forming a broad white stripe along the folded wing. Neck long, thin, light gray. Head very light gray; almost white. Bill long, thin, obviously upturned; black. Legs long, gray (darker gray than the head and neck).

In flight, neck and legs extended, black wings contrasting with body. Two broad black stripes along both sides of the back, and broad white areas in the outstretched wings contrasting with the black primaries. Overall, a long thin appearance to the bird.

If accepted this will be the first record of this species for Allegheny County.

Mike Fialkovich  
141 Comrie Avenue  
Braddock, PA 15104

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **American Avocet (Recurvirostra americana)**

Date of Sighting: **23 August 1995 to 23 August 1995**

Location: **IMPERIAL**

County: **ALLEGHENY**

Observer(s): **Mike Fialkovich**

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **Mike Fialkovich**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **YES** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes	X							
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
S. Feldstein	X							
TOTALS	X							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Haas*

Date:

*5-1-96*