

278-02-1995

DETAILS ON 4 WILLETS -- GLADES, BUTLER COUNTY -- 5/4/95

fide Paul Hess & Gene Wilhelm, from oral reports by observer

Observer: Ned Weston, Pennsylvania Game Commission,  
manager of Glades Wildlife Management Area

Sighting: \* Watched for total of 10 minutes, as near as 25 yards,  
with no optical aid

\* Birds were observed flying in, standing at water's  
edge of Glades lake -- then pursued and nearly caught  
by the male Bald Eagle of Glades' nesting pair  
(which has previously been seen preying on Mallards  
to feed its young).

Description: Weston described them as large, nearly crow-sized  
shorebirds with striking and unmistakable pattern  
of bold, wide black-and-white stripe pattern on both  
upper and under wing.

Overall plumage color: light grayish tan above  
and lighter, nearly white, underparts with no  
prominent marks (indicating "Western" ssp.  
*inornatus*, the likely form here).

Bill: rather thick, heavy and straight, estimated  
2.5 to 3 inches in length.

The observer, who had not seen the species before, is familiar  
with waders, waterfowl and gamebirds, but not many shorebirds. He  
described these four birds well to Wilhelm immediately after the  
sighting and before consulting a field guide. Then he picked  
out the species with certainty from a guide's illustrations, and  
described the birds again later to Hess. His description seems  
clearly to rule out other species including the other large  
white-wing-striped shorebird, Hudsonian Godwit.

I am aware of one previous Butler County record, a single bird at  
Lake Arthur 9/3/91.

Paul Hess

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**

Species: **Willet (Catoptrophorus semipalmatus)**

Date of Sighting: **4 May 1995 to 4 May 1995**

Location: **GLADES**

County: **BUTLER**

Observer(s): **Ned Weston**

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **Paul Hess**

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

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X	<del>XXXX</del>				
N. Pulcinella				X				
E. Kwater				X				
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams				X				
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein						X		
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>		
<b>DECISION</b>				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*J C Haas*

Date:

*5-1-96*