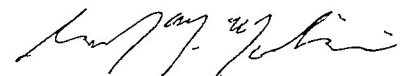


296-01-1991

RUDDY TURNSTONE
(*Arenaria interpres*)
Jan. 26, 1991

At approximately 9:00 AM on Presque Isle State Park while scanning the large number of waterfowl and gulls with my scope off of Perry Monument, I saw a shorebird fly past my field of view. I immediately turned the scope in the direction of the passing bird and caught up with it as it landed next to some gulls that were feeding on dead fish at the edge of the ice. The shorebird began feeding as soon as it landed, rapidly picking at the ice and on one occasion a dead fish. I could easily identify the shorebird as a Ruddy Turnstone when it faced me showing the broad blackish double scallop markings on its breast. The chunky body and pointed posterior was also distinctive. After a minute or so the bird flew to another area along the open water and began the same feeding behavior of picking at the ice. As it flew, which was frequent, it revealed a distinctive white and brown pattern on its upper side (indicating basic plumage) and a white tail with a bold black tail band. At the distance that I observed the bird the leg color could not be distinguished other than that they were pale. Total viewing time was less than 10 minutes using a 25X Bushnell Spacemaster Spotting Scope. Light conditions were good. It was mostly cloudy (stratus) with the sun beginning to shine through the clouds. The wind was southwesterly to less than 15 mph. I saw the turnstone again at 1:00 PM feeding along the edge of the ice off of the foot of East Avenue in Erie. The only other species of shorebird that resemble Ruddy Turnstone that it could have been confused with was Black Turnstone. This bird was brown not blackish and it had pale legs rather than dark legs. Two winters ago a Ruddy Turnstone spent at least part of the winter at Cleveland, Ohio. I have seen hundreds of Ruddy Turnstones in all plumages in Erie Co. and elsewhere. There are no winter records in Erie Co. or to my knowledge anywhere in PA.



Gerald M. McWilliams

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Ruddy Turnstone**

Date of Sighting: **January 26, 1991**

Observer(s): **Jerry McWilliams**

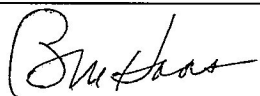
Date of Submission: **1991**

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. Leberman			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

8-15-91