

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE  
613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380

16 February 2003

Daniel Bogar  
421 Susquehanna St.  
Marysville, PA 17053

Dear Dan,

Thank you for submitting documentation of the Purple Sandpiper at Marysville on 17 December 2000, which county compiler Richard Williams passed along to us for review.

After careful review, the Committee has voted unanimously not to accept this record. A majority of the members placed it in Category IV-B as "a record for which there exists insufficient evidence for evaluation."

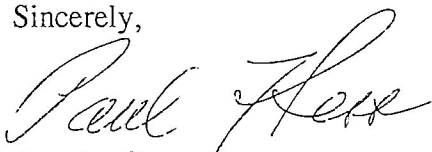
The reason basically involved the lack of details that you were able to see at that great distance. We appreciate your conservative position in recognizing that a Dunlin could not be ruled out, and we believe you were correct in that assessment.

Nevertheless, it is important that PORC have an opportunity to review all such reports and include them in the state's ornithological record.

As I mentioned in my recent letter about the Little Gull that you reported, our non-acceptance does not necessarily mean that the bird was not a Purple Sandpiper but that the Committee felt the documentation did not support that identification adequately.

Again, we hope that our non-acceptance in this case will not discourage you from submitting reports on any future rarities you find.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:  
Paul Hess, Chair

Record No. 313-03-2000

313-01-2000

RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: Purple Sandpiper Date of this Observation: 12-17-00

Date Found: 12-17-00 Last Date Seen: 12-17-00

Location: Middle of Susquehanna River about 1/2 mile above Rockville Bldg

Township/City: Marysville County: Dauphin

Person Writing this report: Daniel Bogar

Address: 421 Susquehanna St

Marysville PA 17053 Phone: (717) 957-4719

Other Observers: none

Who found the bird first: \_\_\_\_\_

Other documentation Included: (Circle all appropriate items)(Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

Photograph

Audio Recording

Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored? \_\_\_\_\_

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed—Please do not write on back of this form)

See attached sheet.

The only species of shorebird I can't rule out based on color pattern, size, etc., is Dunlin. The behavior seems much more indicative of Purple Sandpiper than Dunlin but that's <sup>the</sup> best I can do.

Bogar, Daniel

313-01-2000

**From:** Bogar, Daniel  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2000 4:26 PM  
**To:** 'birdtrek@EPIX.NET'  
**Subject:** Mystery sandpiper

Bob,

I wanted to get your opinion on a sandpiper I had in my 'yard' on Sunday. I never got closer than 1/4 mile away so I could not see many details. It looked dark and chunky. The head and back were dark gray and the breast was also gray but not quite as dark. I was using a Nikon Fieldscope ED 60 mm with a 60X eyepiece. The weather was heavily overcast. The bird was actively foraging on the rocks in the middle of the river. It would fly in, search the entire rock spending more time near the water line and after 5-15 minutes (depending on the size of the rock) fly to the next one. I watched this behavior off and on for about 1.5 hours. When it flew I saw no obvious white wing stripe and it did not fly or bob like a Spotted. It seemed larger than a Least/Semipalm. The legs appeared relatively short but I can not rule out Dunlin from the look I got. How much reliability would you put on the foraging behavior. I don't expect PORC to buy it but would you say 80% sure? Do you have any other suggestions? Thanks.

Dan

*\* Obviously, this was not a positive initial ID or a later confirmed ID.*

*I am submitting as presented to me without expectations of its acceptance.*

*Richard Williams, Compiler  
1-25-01*

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Tabulation Form - Round One**

Species:Purple Sandpiper (Calidris maritima)

Date of Sighting: 17 December 2000 to 17 December 2001

Location: MARYSVILLE

County: DAUPHIN

Observer(s): Daniel Bogar

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Daniel Bogar

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

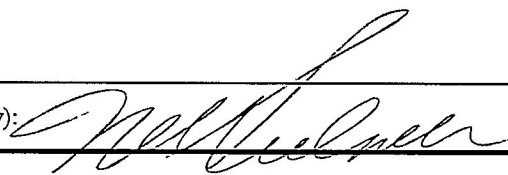
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead					X			
D. Couchman					X			
P. Hess					X			
J. Stanley				X				
B. Reid					X			
<del>P. Rodewald</del> <i>R. Leberman</i>					X			
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS				2	5			
DECISION					X			

Comments: 0/7

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 11/19/01