

Recent Sighting of Black-legged Kittiwakes in southeastern Pennsylvania: inland sightings of the Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) are rare indeed, and the only modern records I can find for eastern Pennsylvania until 1983 are two sightings of individual birds—one at Lake Ontelaunee, Berks Co., by Earl L. Poole on November 17, 1935 (unpubl. mss.), and one at Harvey's Lake, Luzerne Co., from January 13, 1982 (*Am. Birds* 36 [1982]:279), seen by many observers including several from the D.V.O.C. who traveled there to add this Pennsylvania rarity to their state list.

On the afternoon of October 25, 1983, I received a call from Greer Saunders that he had just seen a Kittiwake on Marsh Creek Reservoir in Chester County. It had been discovered earlier in the day by Larry Lewis, who notified Saunders and Robert and Ruth Cook, and they arrived in time to observe the bird until it disappeared to the west. When I arrived late in the afternoon, the bird could not be found.

Then, on December 24, 1983, I found three adult plumaged Kittiwakes feeding in the east arm of the reservoir near the headquarters area. I notified Robert Cook, and he saw them later that afternoon. It was a bitter cold and blustery day with a strong northwest wind. A fast moving low had passed up the coast the previous day and might possibly account for their presence, but, on the other hand, they could have been here for several days. I could not find them during a brief visit on Christmas, but Frank and Barbara Haas did see them that day. I spent most of the following day, the 26th, at the reservoir and could not find them, but another observer reported seeing the three birds there.

— Phillips B. Street, R.D. 1, Chester Springs, PA 19425

357-01-1983

1102 Signal Hill Lane
Berwyn, PA 19312
March 13, 1991

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
Barbara Haas, Secretary
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555

357-01-1983

To the Committee:

In reading the Official List in Pennsylvania Birds 4:41-54, I was surprised to find the Black-legged Kittiwake still on the Pending Decisions list.

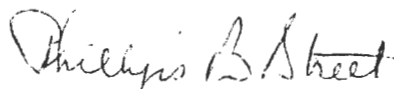
There are two recent references to the presence of this species in Pennsylvania.

American Birds 16:279 reports an adult in winter plumage seen at Harvey's Lake from January 1-3, 1982 by four persons, none of whom I know personally nor of their expertise. The bird was seen by many other observers, including probably some members of this Committee. The writer and Edward Altemus saw it on the 3rd. It was sleeting when we arrived, and, while we saw the bird from a distance, I would be the first to say that under those conditions that day I did not see it well enough to swear on a stack of Bibles that it should go on the Pennsylvania list.

Cassinia 60:61 tells of my finding three adult Kittiwakes at Marsh Creek on December 24, 1983. They were seen later that day by Robert Cook, whom I called, and the following day by Frank and Barbara Haas. If lack of written documentation is why this species has not yet been approved, let me say that these three birds were adults, were seen close at hand both on ~~land~~^{water} and in flight, and their yellow bills, black feet and, very clearly, their black wing tips, totally black as if dipped in a can of paint, were all distinctly noted. Should further written corroboration be needed, it could be obtained from Cook or the Haases.

My note also mentioned Earl Poole's record of one seen on Lake Ontelaunee on November 17, 1935 (unpub. mss.) and that Grier Saunders and Larry Lewis had one at Marsh Creek on October 25, 1983, the same year as my sighting. They notified the Cooks, who saw it the same day. I also read in Poole's Pennsylvania Birds (1964) p. 37 that "one shot at McKee's Rocks, Allegheny County, January 15, 1891, is in the Carnegie Museum."

Sincerely,



Phillips B. Street

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: **Black-legged Kittiwake**Date of Sighting: **24 December 1983**
~~25 October 1983~~Observer(s): **Phillips B. Street**Date of Submission: **1991**Submitted by: **Phillips B. Street**

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			6	1			
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Bm Haas

Date:

3/7/92

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of 2

Species: **Black-legged Kittiwake**

Date of Sighting: **October 25, 1983**

Observer(s): **Phillips B. Street**

Date of Submission: **1991**

Submitted by: **Phillips B. Street**

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			5	2			
DECISION							

Comments:

Send for second Round

Signature (Secretary):

Date: