



GLR 11/4/91

NEAL G. THORPE
P.O. BOX Q
MONT CLARE, PA 19453

557-02-1991

PORC

Nov. 26, 1991

Dear Barb and Frank,

I enclose your card re the disks I have on hand.

I'd also like your opinion about a small gull I saw on Nov. 4, 1991 swimming just off the long Knight Road bridge at Green lane. It was not far offshore from the shoulder of the road, so I simply parked and looked out my open window, and didn't even get out of the car. I was on my way to try for the third time to see the avocet, it was 10 a.m., and I no longer remember how sunshiny it was, but the light was fine.

Anyway, I assumed at first it was an imm. Bonaparte. I already had a Bonaparte at GLR in my field notes of 10/25. (Now I wish I could go back and take a second look at that one.)

But something about all the black on its nape down to its back made me look twice and reach for my field guide. The Bonaparte just doesn't have that black collar. The imm. black-legged kittiwake does. Could it have been???

I used the only paper I had with me, the little spiral notebook I carry in my handbag, and drew the enclosed on the spot while the bird floated gently away from me. I'd say it was 35 to 40 feet away when first seen, and probably no more than 80 when I finished. The black behind its eye just wasn't a "spot;" it was a real line, like an arched eyebrow. In its swimming position I didn't take the black on its neck as a mere "collar;" it seemed to go up the nape.

I'd love to call it a kittiwake. Over to PORC.

(P.S. There'd been that "Hallowe'en" storm on the coast at the end of October. My field notes say a cold front moved in 10/28 with strong north winds, and that 11/3 was "sunny, chilly.")

I will probably telephone you next week anyway. Barb, I have to confess that I have lost the hearing aid for my left (worse) ear. It's been lost for over a month. I've been into every pocket, handbag, suitcase, etc. and fine-combed my car. And I've about given up hope that it will turn up. I want to discuss the next step with you. Alas!

Best,

Neal

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Black-legged Kittiwake**

Date of Sighting: **4 November 1991 to 4 November 1991**

Observer(s): **Neal Thorpe**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Neal Thorpe**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater						X	
B. Haas				X			
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes				X			
G. McWilliams							X
S. Santner				X			
J. Skinner						X	
TOTALS			1	3		2	1
DECISION				X			

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

2-27-93