

357-~~04~~-1997  
04

## Black-legged Kittiwake

*Rissa tridactyla*

**Location:** Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pa

**Date:** November 20, 1997

**Time:** 8:35 AM

**Weather:** Mostly cloudy (stratocumulus), wind westerly less than 10 mph

**Viewing conditions:** good

**Observer:** Jerry McWilliams

**Optics:** Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular and Kowa TSN 4 Spotting Scope at 30X

**Viewing distance:** about 400 yards

**Details of sighting & description:** Migration had not been very good this morning as I sat at Sunset Point conducting my waterbird count. Except for Lesser Scaup and Red-breasted Merganser, there were few waterfowl and even fewer gulls. Every few minutes a single Bonaparte's Gull would fly past as well as an occasional Ring-billed Gull. The single gull flying past Sunset Point at 8:35 was clearly not a Bonaparte's or a ring-bill, but a Black-legged Kittiwake. Because it was flying alone, I was not able to get an accurate size of the bird, but the body seemed a little smaller and the wings appeared to be narrower than Ring-billed Gull. It was casually flying from east to west about a couple of hundred yards offshore and about fifty feet above the water. Once it dropped down to the water to investigate a possible meal and then continued in a westerly direction and out of sight. I had ample time to study the upper and underside of the bird as it past Sunset Point. The bill was all black and the head appeared to be all white with a black spot behind the eye. There was a wide blackish-gray bar across the hind neck separating the white head from the light gray mantle. The rump was white and the notched tail was white except for the sharply demarcated black terminal band. The forewing was light gray with a black bar beginning at the inner median coverts, crossing diagonally over the forewing on to the outer lesser coverts, and to the bend of the wing. From the bend of the wing, the black continued to include the outer greater coverts and the outer three or four primaries. The remainder of the wing was white which included the inner primaries, part of the greater coverts and all of the secondaries. This pattern of white and black on the wings formed a pattern of an "M" disconnected in the middle by the gray mantle. The underside of the kittiwake was gleaming white and was broken only by the black outer primaries, the black terminal tail band, and the black legs that were clearly visible.

This is only the tenth record in Erie County and the first since December of 1991.

This is only the second kittiwake I have seen in Erie County. I have observed this species along the Niagara River and off the coast of Maine a few times.



## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

Date of Sighting: 20 November 1997 to 20 November 1997

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1997

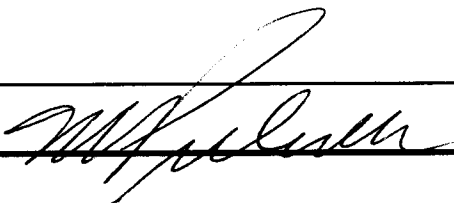
Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

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	
D. Couchman			X					
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
J. McWilliams			X					
B. Reid			X					<del>X</del>
P. Rodewald			X					
TOTALS			6					21
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/0/7

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

9/28/00