



RR1, Box 270B
Stahlstown, PA 15687
May 7, 2001

557-01-2001

Nick Pulcinella
210 Welcome Ave.
Norwood, PA 19074

Nick,

On Sunday, April 8, 2001, Karen and Jason Barnhart of the Westmoreland County Bird Club identified an adult Black-legged Kittiwake at Shawnee Lake in Shawnee State Park about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. I read their email message Monday evening. They described the bird as a gull with an all white head and plain yellow bill with no red marks or rings. The back and wings were gray with black wingtips. He was tilted forward in the water far enough that they could see the legs were black. They observed him for a half-hour in the scope at 30 yards and were certain it was an adult Black-legged Kittiwake.

I went out Tuesday morning April 10 to confirm and ran into Scott Bastian, the Somerset County compiler. Scott and I located the bird on the grass on the swimming beach among several ring-billed gulls. He was just about the same size as the ring-bills. We had him in the scope at 30 yards and watched him walk to the water, so the black legs and feet were plainly visible. The bill was all yellow, the head and body white and the wings and mantle gray with black wingtips. When he flew, the black wingtips made a sharp demarcation line with the gray in the wing.

Unfortunately in my haste to get out in the morning I grabbed the wrong camera. The one I wanted had the scope camera adapter attached and I could have shot using the scope as the lens. Instead I had a 28-70mm zoom lens on the camera body and had to hand-hold it in front of the scope eyepiece. One picture does show (if you use a magnifying glass) the all yellow bill and body features. That's the best I could do with the available equipment.

To my knowledge this is a Bedford County 1st record. None of the dozen or so kittiwake reports I found mentioned Bedford County.

Sincerely,



Dick Byers

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)

Date of Sighting: 8 April 2001 to 10 April 2001

Location: SHAWNEE STATE PARK

County: BEDFORD

Observer(s): Dick Byers, Scott Bastian, Karen Barnhart, Jason Barnhart

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Dick Byers

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

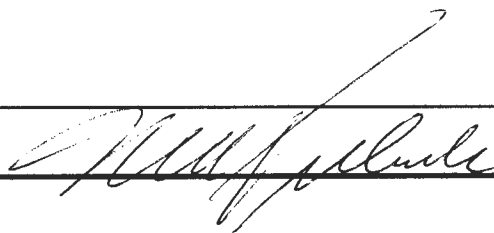
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B, IV-C, V			Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess	X							
J. Stanley			X					
B. Reid			X					
R. Lebermann P. Rodewald	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	3		4					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

4/8/01