



Black-legged Kittiwake 357-01-2005
Presque Isle S.P. Erie Co
12/3/2005 Jerry McWilliams



357-01-2005

Black-legged Kittiwake
Rissa tridactyla

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

Date: December 3, 2005

Time: 9:40 AM

Weather: Mostly cloudy, wind westerly to 15 mph

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: 10 X 40 Zeiss binocular

Viewing distance: 150 to 200 yards.

Viewing conditions: good

Details of sighting and description:

I was at Sunset Point conducting the waterbird count when a Black-legged Kittiwake in basic I plumage flew past going in a westerly direction. It flew between the shoreline and the breakwaters, closest to the breakwaters, from about three feet to about 50 feet above the water. Even though it was only in view for less than 30 seconds, the identification was straightforward. As soon as I identified the bird I grabbed my camera next to me and was able to get a few photographs before it flew out of sight.

It was smaller than the Ring-billed Gull, which was flying near it. The wings were long and narrow and on the upperside there was a bold black band crossing the forewing diagonally that connected to the all black outermost primaries on an otherwise all gray wing. The combination of the black markings on each wing formed an 'M' when the entire upperside was viewed. The black did not extend over the all gray back. The bill was short and all black and the head was white with a dark patch behind the eye. There was a distinctive bold black bar that crossed over the neck and extended down to the side of the neck. The tail was slightly forked (only noticeable when the tail was closed) with a black terminal band. The entire underside of the bird was white except for a small black wedge at the tip of each wing that extended as a narrow black line down the outer primaries.

I have seen a few Black-legged Kittiwakes along the Atlantic coast and two others of this age class at Presque Isle.

Jerry McWilliams
3508 Allegheny Rd.
Erie, Pa 16508-2129

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)

Date of Sighting: 3 December 2005 to 3 December 2005

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County : ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 2005

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

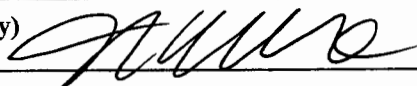
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut								
A. Guarente	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
J. Heller	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	6							
DECISION	X							

Comments: G10

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

7/24/06