



Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

Number of individuals: One
Age: First-winter plumage
Sex: unknown

Date: 4 November 2010, ~4:20-4:35 PM
Location: Brush Valley Twp. Yellow Creek Lake at Yellow Creek State Park

Observer: Justin Bosler 2074 Jarvis Rd., Lancaster, PA.
717-475-9998 17601justin.bosler@gmail.com

Habitat: Open lake ~250-300 meters.

Weather: Overcast sky with passing rain showers. No glare or shading effects.

Optics: Kowa Prominar TSN-4 Spotting Scope with 20-60x zoom eyepiece

Description: A small to medium-sized, white-headed gull with bold black "M" pattern on upperwing surface in flight and predominantly white underwings with noticeable black tips. Underwings actually seen better in flight than upperwings as bird was viewed head-on in flight, flying toward my location. Noticeably larger in size than Bonaparte's Gull (BOGU) in direct comparison. Small black ear patch on otherwise unmarked white head with solid dark eye, broad black collar (or nuchal bar) contrasting markedly with mostly white head, neck, and breast. Mantle and scapulars a rather dark gray, a few shades darker than BOGU in direct comparison. Lesser and median wing coverts appeared nearly completely black with greater coverts gray, and tertials with black centers and broad white edges. Folded primaries entirely black. Mostly white tail with narrow black terminal band appearing almost wedge shaped. Bill and legs were solidly black. The gull appeared low over the lake to the north, and was gliding roughly north to south toward my location in the Waterfowl Observation Blind, and in less than a minute after the initial observation, it alit on the lake among a large raft of American Coot. It almost immediately began to preen and bathe, which it continued to do for a few minutes. It was then joined by a basic ad. Bonaparte's Gull and they casually swam around together in a relatively small area, back and forth. Both gulls took off shortly thereafter and circled to gain height before I lost sight of them. Despite searching most of the lake before I left, I failed to find either bird.

Similar species: Bonaparte's Gull easily ruled out by larger size, darker upperparts, black collar, and black legs/feet. First-winter Black-headed Gull ruled out by aforementioned characters in addition to entirely black bare parts.

Experience with species: Fair amount of experience from Eastern ME, MA, and coastal WA as well as a couple of records from sw. LA.

Sure of ID: Yes, 100% positive.

Vocalizations: None heard.

Justin Bosler 2074 Jarvis Rd. Lancaster, PA 17601 justin.bosler@gmail.com

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Date of Sighting: 4 November 2010 to 4 November 2010

County : INDIANA

Location : YELLOW CREEK STATE PARK

Observer(s): Justin Bosler

Date of Submission: 2010

Submitted by: Justin Bosler

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
D. DeReamus			X				
A. Guarente			✓				
T. Johnson	✓						
B. Coulter	✓						
C. Rutt			✓				
J. Heller			✓				
G. Malosh	✓						
TOTALS	3		4				
DECISION			X				

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 8/2/11