

24 April, 1999

Ken Lebo
115 Grandview Ave.
Green Hills Lake, PA 19508

Dear Ken,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Sooty Terns you saw in Reading on 7 September, 1996. The record circulated the committee for two rounds. After careful review and much discussion, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt the description of the adult bird did not rule out the possibility of a Bridled Tern and the immature individual could have been a Black Tern. This does not mean of course that the birds were not Sooty Terns, merely that the details did not allow for a definite determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

For the Committee,
Roy A. Ickes, Chairperson

Record # 375-01-1996

Rudy,
375-01 -1996

Sooty Tern (adult and immature)

On Sept. 7, 1996, at 8:15 a.m., the day after Hurricane Fran, I was driving north on ²⁴176 when I saw two large terns (almost the size of Royal Terns) flying from left to right just over my car. I pulled over and tried to ID them with my binoculars. All I could see were dark upper wings as they were flying away over the Schuykill River. I pulled out my scope to get more details, hoping they would turn around, but they didn't.

I took the bypass to get to the Gibraltar Bridge. I jumped out and looked up and down the river, but no terns. Then I heard some terns calling. I looked up river and the two terns were about to fly over me. The first tern was an adult Sooty Tern. I saw the dark upper wing, the white underwing, belly and forehead, the black line running through the eye and the black bill. And I also noticed the deeply forked tail. I then moved on to the second bird, which was now directly over head. It was all dark and also had a deeply forked tail and it was the same size and shape as the adult sooty. I watched them as they winged their way down the river, both having a slow, steady wing beat but still making good time.

Ken Lebo

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of 2

Species: Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*)

Date of Sighting: 7 September 1996 to 7 September 1996

Location: READING

County: BERKS

Observer(s): Ken Lebo

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Ken Lebo

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes				X				
G. McWilliams				X				
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein				X				
TOTALS			4	3				
DECISION								

Comments:

Send for second Round.

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

8-16-97

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*)

Date of Sighting: 7 September 1996 to 7 September 1996

Location: READING

County: BERKS

Observer(s): Ken Lebo

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Ken Lebo

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
P. Schwalbe				X				
E. Kwater								
R. Ickes				X				
S. Feldstein			X					
J. McWilliams				X				
N. Pulcinella			X					
TOTALS			3	3				
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C Haas

Date:

4-19-95