

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

5 February 2002

Bob Wasilewski
122 S. Meade St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Dear Bob,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Least Tern at Kirby Park on 8 May 1999. After careful review, the Committee regrets that it has voted not to accept this record.

Members' opinions were divided, and the balloting went two rounds before a decision (which partly explains the long delay in announcing our decision). The final vote was three in favor of acceptance and four not in favor.

Those who voted against acceptance expressed a concern that the very brief elements of the description, "yellow bill...white forehead in front of the black cap," may have pointed strongly to a Least Tern but were not sufficient for complete certainty. For example, in first-year plumage other tern species have a white forehead in front of the black cap and a bill that might appear yellowish in certain lighting conditions.

The Committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean the bird was not a Least Tern, but rather that a majority of the members felt the identification was not supported conclusively.

We hope this does not discourage you from submitting reports of future rarities.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

Record No. 372-01-1999

Dear Jim,

LUZERNE

The details on the least tern and the olive-sided flycatcher, as I remember them, are as follows:

Olive-sided Flycatcher - Seen near the Woodsy Owl deck in the Kirby Park Natural Area. The white tufts under the wings were protruding, as shown in field guides. This field mark caught our attention, and Ed Johnson immediately called "olive-sided flycatcher." The bird was perched at the tip of a dead branch in the small clearing near the Woodsy deck. The description in the Peterson Field Guide regarding behavior, including during migration, fit our bird perfectly - it was the "text-book example" of an olive-sided flycatcher. I don't recall the time that we saw the bird, but I would guess 9:30am - 10:00am.

Least Tern - Ed spotted the tern when he detoured from the group briefly.

The yellow bill was very obvious. Further observation revealed the white forehead in front of the black cap. The bird was flying over the River back & forth upstream & downstream approximately 200-300 yards upstream from the Black Diamond Railroad Bridge. It appeared to land occasionally. However, when it did it was usually out of view behind vegetation. Again, I don't recall the exact time, but I would guess 10:00am - 10:30am.

I hope this is helpful.

Bob

372-01-1999



Submitted by

Bob Wasilowski

Both birds observed on 5/8/99 at

KIRBY PARK
LUZERNE COUNTY

Other observers: EDWIN JOHNSON
CANDY GORWUN

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Least Tern (Sterna antillarum)

Date of Sighting: 8 May 1999 to 8 May 1999

Location: LUZERNE

County: KIRBY PARK

Observer(s): Bob Wasilewski

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Bob Wasilewski

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

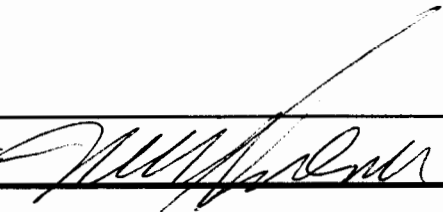
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman					X			
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes				X				
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp					X			
TOTALS			4	1	2			
DECISION								

Comments: 4/3/0 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 11/2/00

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round Two

Species: Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*)

Date of Sighting: 8 May 1999 to 8 May 1999

Location: KIRBY PARK

County: LUZERNE

Observer(s): Bob Wasilewski

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Bob Wasilewski

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

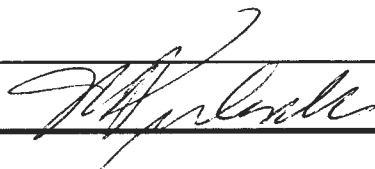
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman					X			
P. Hess					X			
R. Ickes				X				
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp					X			
TOTALS			3	1	3			
DECISION					X			

Comments: 3/4

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 11/4/01