

362-01-1997 See photo

To: Nick Pulcinella -- Rare Bird Report

Two Gull-billed Terns at Bald Eagle State Park, May 25, '97

Sunday, May 25, Memorial weekend was overcast with occasional drizzle. My husband, Ted, and I were headed to Hublersburg, a few miles from Bald Eagle State Park, where he was to play in a small band at a memorial service in a cemetary there. We left early to make a guick pass into Bald Eagle and fortunately we left before receiving the message that the band part of the ceremony was canceled because of rain. We headed directly to the beach area of the park a little after 1 p.m. There we spotted a flock of ring-billed gulls loafing on the beach area beyond the bathing pavilion and drove to the parking lot above that stretch of beach.

As soon as we stopped I noticed a tern make a couple passes at the beach and then apparently spotted a place to suit it and dropped down on the sand among the gulls. By its orange bill I recognized it as a Forster's tern, a regular migrating visitor in the park. Then we noticed a couple feet from this tern were two more terns. To my surprise they both had black bills and black legs and feet. I figured they had to be gull-billed terns but I also was quite sure they had not been recorded before in central Pennsylvania, a fact confirmed later by John Peplinski. My binoculars are Leitz 7 x 35's and Ted's are Sawyer 10 x 40's.

To be even more positive of the identification Ted set up our spotting scope-a Kowa with zoom lens, 20x to 40x. Both individuals had black crowns and napes; both had the stout black bill, typical of Gull-bills; and both had black legs and feet. We also had a nice size comparison with the larger ringbilled gulls and the similar-sized Forster's tern. We both had seen Gullbilled Terns at Brigantine (Edwin Forsythe) National Wildlife Refuge in New Rare Bird--Gull-billed Terns, cont'd. -2-

Jersey the previous Monday. We also have seen Gull-bills in Florida.

After observing them for a few minutes we headed to the Hublersburg cemetary and after preceiving there would be no band action we headed back to the park. We stopped en route in the village of Howard to call Bob Snyder, a State College Bird Club member, and he said we would join us immediately at the beach. Only one tern was left on the beach and fortunately it was one of the Gull-bills.

Also fortunately Bob, who is an avid wildlife photographer, brought a camera and moved closer to the beach, getting several pictures of the tern. The camera he used was a Nikon 6006 with a Tamron 200-400 mm lens. Attached to the lens was a tele-extender, making the lens essentially 600 mm. His camera was mounted on a tripod and he used a cable release and flash. Enclosed is one of his slides of the tern. (We eventually would like to have the slide returned.)

Bob showed the tern slides at a SCBC meeting and afterwards received the following notation from fellow member, Steven Feldstein: "In photographs with the wings raised, bird had a light brown secondary bar. This suggests that the bird is not an adult, even though it had a completed dark crown; also noted that outer primaries had dark outer webs...that the above characteristics of the wing plumage, together with the black crown indicates a bird in second year plumage."

Trust I have included all necessary data in making a rare bird report.

Sincerely, in Fulle

Alice L. Fuller Box 268, Pine Grove Mills, Pa. 16868

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee         Species:       Guil-billed Tern (Sterna nilotica:         Species:       Guil-billed Tern (Sterna nilotica:         County:       CBM         Date of Subinistion:       B2M         Date of Subinistion:       198         Subinitted by:       Allos Fuller;         Bottomiston:       198         Subinitted by:       Allos Fuller;         Bottomiston:       198         Subinitted by:       Allos Fuller;         Mermber       Class I         Class I       Class I         Class I       Class II         P. Schwalbe							Rec	ord No.: 3	62-01-1
Species: Gull-billed Tern (Sterna nilotica)         Date of Sighting: 25 May 1997 to 25 May 1997         Location: BALD EAGLE STATE PARK         County: CENTRE         Observer(s): Alice Fuller; Bob Snyder         Date of Submission: 1997         Submitted by: Alice Fuller; Bob Snyder         Written Description: YES         Photo: YES         Specimen: NO         Recording: NONE         R. Ickes         P. Hess         J. McWilliams         T. Floyd         TOTALS         DECISION		Pe	ennsylvan	ia Ornitl	hological R	ecords Coi	nmittee		
Date of Sighting: 25 May 1997 to 25 May 1997 Location: BALD EAGLE STATE PARK County: CENTRE Deserver(s): Alice Fuller; Bob Snyder Date of Submission: 1997 Submitted by: Alice Fuller; Bob Snyder Written Description: YES Photo: YES Specimen: NO Recording: NONE Member Class I Class II Class III Class IV A B C Abst F. Haas C Class I Class II Class III Class IV A B C Abst F. Haas C Class I Class II Class II Class IV A B C Abst F. Haas C Class I Class II Class II Class II Class IV A B C Abst F. Haas C C Class I Class II Class II Class II Class IV A B C Abst F. Haas C C Class I Class II Class II Class II Class IV A B C Abst F. Haas C C Class I Class II Class II Class II Class IV A B C Abst F. Haas C C Class I Class II Class II Class II Class IV A B C Abst F. Has C C Class I Class II Class II Class II Class IV A B C Abst T. Floyd C C Class I Class II Cl			Vo	ting Tabu	lation - Rou	ınd #1 of			
Location: BALD EAGLE STATE PARK County: CENTRE Observer(s): Alice Fuller; Bob Snyder Submitted by: Alice Fuller; Bob Snyder Written Description: YES Photo: YES Specimen: NO Recording: NONE Member       Class I       Class II       Class IV       A       B       C       Abst         F. Haas       Class I       Class II       Class IV       A       B       C       Abst         F. Haas       Class I       Class II       Class IV       A       B       C       Abst         P. Schwalbe       X<	·			1997					
Member     Class I     Class II     Class III     Class IV     A     B     C     Abst       F. Haas     X     I     I     I     I     I     I     I     I       P. Schwalbe     X     I     I     I     I     I     I     I       R. Ickes     X     I     I     I     I     I     I     I       P. Hess     X     I     I     I     I     I     I     I       J. McWilliams     X     I     I     I     I     I     I       TOTALS     G     I     I     I     I     I     I	Location: BALD EA County: CENTRE Observer(s): Alice Date of Submission Submitted by: Alice	AGLE STATE   Fuller; Bob Si n: 1997 ce Fuller; Bob	PARK nyder Snyder						
Member     Class I     Class II     Class III     Class III     Class IV     A     B     C     Abstraction       F. Haas     X     I     I     I     I     I     I     I       P. Schwalbe     X     I     I     I     I     I     I       R. Schwalbe     X     I     I     I     I     I     I       R. Ickes     X     I     I     I     I     I     I       P. Hess     X     I     I     I     I     I     I       J. McWilliams     X     I     I     I     I     I     I       TOTALS     G     I     I     I     I     I     I	Written Description	ו: YES	Photo	o: YES	Spec	cimen: NO	Reco	ording: NOI	NE
F. Haas   P. Schwalbe   K. Parkes						Class V			
P. Schwalbe   K. Parkes   K. Parkes   R. Ickes   Y   P. Hess   J. McWilliams   T. Floyd   T. Floyd   DECISION	Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	А	В	С	Abst
K. Parkes     X     Image: Constraint of the second	F. Haas								
R. Ickes     Image: Constraint of the second s	P. Schwalbe			,					
P. Hess J. McWilliams T. Floyd TOTALS DECISION	K. Parkes			X					
J. McWilliams	R. Ickes								
T. Floyd X I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	P. Hess								
TOTALS 6 ( DECISION X CONTRACT OF A CONTRACT	J. McWilliams								
	T. Floyd								_
DECISION	TOTALS	6							
Comments:	DECISION	$\perp$				1			
	Comments:	·							

٢