



PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

36204-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Gull-billed tern (Sterna nilotica)
Subspecies, if known _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 3 SEX(ES) —

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable):

All three in adult breeding plumage

DATE OF OBSERVATION 6/7/03 TIME 9:30-10:00 A.M. 11:45-12:00 A.M.

LOCATION (city, borough, township) About 1 mile east of Troxelville, Snyder Co.

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) on south side of Penns Creek Rd.

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Richard Williams
Address 3 Parkside DR
City Hummelstown State PA ZIP 17036
e-mail (optional) RWpuffin@aol.com phone (optional) 717 566 6562

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): Patricia Williams

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details)

In flooded farm field, pool of water was about 20' x 30' and not more than 1" or 2" deep

DISTANCE TO BIRD about 50 feet

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you)

Steady rain from early morning to early afternoon. Result of a coastal low pressure system that may have brought the birds inland.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED

Swift Audubon bins 8.5X44 / Nikon digital camera

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

Thick all black bill
Black legs and feet, stood taller than most terns
Chunkier body. Silhouette more gull like than tern like.
All back cap and nape. Cap extending to eyes.
White "cheek's", throat and breast, light gray back,
Smaller than Ring-billed Gull that shared pool.
(see photo)

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Not in a sleeping posture.
were walking around a little, but mostly seemed
to be waiting out the rain.

VOCALIZATIONS None -

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph Video recording Audio recording Drawing

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name Patricia Williams

Address 3 Parkside DR

City Hummelstown State PA ZIP 17036

e-mail (optional) Rwpuffin@aol.com phone (optional) (717) 566 6562

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition N/A

If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

Black cap and nape extended to eye level eliminating all
"black-headed" gulls.
Thick, all black bill and chunkier body eliminated other
"black-caped" terns.
Also, black legs and feet eliminated the adult terns with
yellow to orange legs.

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Lack of a white "forehead" eliminates the non-breeding
adult sandwich tern, Common, and Arctic terns.
Lack of "tuft" at back of head and black nape eliminated
adult/breeding sandwich. also sandwich has pointed
bill and typical streamlined silhouette

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

We have seen Gull-billed terns in Florida, Texas, and
Cape May, NJ - Various times over past 25 years.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not)

Yes. Close view for 30 minutes and 15 min. at
about 50 ft. All major characteristics clearly visible

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation Peterson's and Golden bird books

After observation Sibley's and Allen Schwernsborg's "Birds of Central
Susq. Valley"

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 6/20/03

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER

Patricia Williams

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Gull-billed Tern (Sterna nilotica)

Date of Sighting: 7 June 2003 to 7 June 2003

Location: TROXELVILLE

County : SNYDER

Observer(s): Richard Williams, Patricia Williams

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Richard Williams

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
G. Armistead R.W. ITAWT	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

3/1/05