

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

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) WHITE-WINGED TERN (CHALIDONIAS LEUCOPTERUS)
 Subspecies, if known _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 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): ADULT BREEDING

DATE OF OBSERVATION 9-21-17 TIME 11:50 AM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) SPRINGETTSBURY TOWNSHIP IN YORK CO, PA

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) ROCKY RIDGE HAWK WATCH LOCATED IN
~~THE~~ ROCKY RIDGE COUNTY PARK

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name RANDY PHILIPS
 Address 4146 SHARRERS CHURCH RD
 City GLEN ROCK State PA ZIP 17327
 e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) 717-679-4822

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): KEN ORVIS, FRED PALEY
 BOTH LONG TIME HAWK WATCHERS AS AM I.

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) HAWK WATCH LOCATED ON NORTH
 RIDGE OF ROCKY RIDGE PARK IN POWER LINE CUT. ELEVATION APPROX
 900' ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

DISTANCE TO BIRD LESS THAN 1000 FEET - DIRECTLY OVERHEAD.

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) 80° F, LIGHT WIND OUT OF
 NORTHWEST, 40% CLOUD COVER WITH VERY CLEAN SKY. SUN WAS
 OVERHEAD AND BEHIND US AS BIRD CAME IN FROM THE NORTH.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED SWAROVSKI EL 10 X 42

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): THE FOLLOWING IS THE ENTRY I MADE IN MY
 NOTES SOON AFTER WE SAW THE BIRD - "9-21-17 PROBABLE WHITE-
 WINGED TERN. AT APPROX. 11:00 AM, KEN ORVIS, FRED PALEY AND
 MYSELF WATCHED A MEDIUM SIZED TERN FLY IN FROM THE NORTH,
 CIRCLE DIRECTLY OVERHEAD FOR 10-15 SECONDS AND THEN FLY AWAY
 TO THE NORTH WEST. ESTIMATED HEIGHT WAS LESS THAN 1000 FEET.
 VIEWING CONDITIONS WERE VERY GOOD. BIRD HAD A VERY DARK BODY, HEAD
 AND WINGLININGS CONTRASTING SHARPLY WITH WHITE FOREWINGS AND
 TAIL. NO OTHER FIELD MARKS WERE VISIBLE. ESTIMATED WINGSPAN
 WAS 24 INCHES."

SEE ATTACHED PAGE

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) OBSERVED FLAPPING AND SOARING FLIGHT

VOCALIZATIONS NONE

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (optional) _____

phone (optional) _____

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 _____

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

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) THE ONLY OTHER MEDIUM SIZED, DARK BODIED TERN (BLACK TERN) DOES NOT HAVE THE WING CONTRAST THAT WE OBSERVED IN THIS BIRD

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: AFTER THE BIRD FLEW AWAY, WE BEGAN TO DISCUSS IDENTIFICATION. WE KNEW IT WAS A TERN BY SIZE, BODY AND WING SHAPE AND MANNER OF FLIGHT. WE REALLY HAD NO IDEA OF SPECIES UNTIL FRED ASKED WHAT THAT UNUSUAL TERN WAS THAT HAD BEEN SEEN EARLIER IN THE YEAR. WE IMMEDIATELY OPENED MY GOLDEN GUIDE TO THE TERNS AND DETERMINED WHITE-WINGED TERN WAS WHAT WE HAD JUST SEEN. ALL 3 OF US WERE ON THE BIRD THE WHOLE TIME, AND THE STRIKING CONTRAST OF THE DARK WING LININGS WITH THE LIGHT
(Please use an additional page if necessary) SEE ATTACHED PAGE

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES NO EXPERIENCE WITH WHITE-WINGED TERN. HAVE SEEN BLACK TERN ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, MOSTLY IN SPRING WHEN THEY ARE IN BREEDING PLUMAGE

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) YES, BECAUSE IT WAS IDENTIFICATION THROUGH COMMITTEE AND NOT JUST A SINGLE OBSERVER.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA (ROBBINS)

After observation SIBLEY GUIDE TO BIRDS

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 6-10-18

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Nancy Phil

CONT. FROM DESCRIPTION

HAVING NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES, NONE OF US COULD HAVE EVER MADE THE JUMP TO SUCH A RARITY HAD IT NOT BEEN SEEN IN PA JUST SIX WEEKS EARLIER. WITH EXCELLENT VIEWING CONDITIONS, EXTENDED LOOKS BY ALL OBSERVERS FOR AT LEAST 30 SECONDS AND THE BEAUTIFUL CONTRAST OF BLACK AND WHITE DIRECTLY OVERHEAD, WE WERE ALL VERY CONFIDENT OF OUR IDENTIFICATION ONCE THE FIELD GUIDE WAS CONSULTED.

WE ALSO NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN A VERY ACTIVE HURRICANE SEASON AND THAT HURRICANE IRMA HAD MADE LAND FALL JUST A WEEK OR SO EARLIER, INCREASING THE CHANCE OF UNUSUAL SEABIRDS.

CONT. FROM DISCUSSION

FOREWINGS WAS THE FIELD MARK THAT MADE UP OUR MINDS OF THE IDENTIFICATION.