

Mr Kevin Ripka
175 Church St
Dallas, Pa 18612

January 5, 2010

Re: Arctic Tern

Kevin,

Thank you for your submission of your sighting of an Arctic Tern in Pike County from October 24, 2009. The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee appreciates the time and labor involved in submitting your record.

After one round of voting, the sighting was unfortunately not accepted. Although the committee members felt that the bird could have been an Arctic Tern, and that the description was suggestive of one, some members thought that there were still some reasonable doubts about the identification.

Your sighting could very well be correct, unfortunately the committee has to go by the written description and some members felt that description fell a little short of a positive identification. One committee member thought that there should have been an illustration submitted to show the details that you were describing.

Thanks again for your report and please don't let this discourage you from future submissions. The committee depends on reports like yours to further the knowledge of Pennsylvania ornithological studies.

Sincerely,

Al Guarente
Chairman of P.O.R.C.

Record #369-01-2009

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

nickpulcinella@verizon.net

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Arctic Tern, (Sterna paradisea) **Subspecies** (if known)

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 **SEX(ES)** unknown
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 in breeding plumage
DATE OF OBSERVATION Oct. 24, 2009 **TIME** 12:10PM
LOCATION (city, borough, township) Hawley?, Pike County
EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) eastern shoreline of Lake Wallenpaupack, about 1/2 mile south of rte. 590 and rte. 6

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Kevin Ripka
Address 175 Church St.
City Dallas State PA ZIP 18612
e-mail (optional) kevin@nepabirdproject.org phone (optional)

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):
none

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) large lake
DISTANCE TO BIRD multiple passes within 15 feet at closest
VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) overcast, rain
OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED scope, binoculars

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): very long streamers, rounded head, short red bill, no noticable markings on pale upperwing, short dark primary tips (all of equal value)
(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) "bouncy" flight around cove, taken by gusty wind often

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 and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) _____
_forsters- would have already molted beyond breeding plumage at date, orange bill _common- shorter streamers, broader black primary tips, flatter head, longer red bill usually has black tip _____, should have partially molted primaries by date leaving 2 values on tips, upperwing should be dark outers _roseate- longer dark bill, flatter head,

DISCUSSION-This date saw many "sea birds" pushed down by storm along the eastern part of PA In this location I also had Brant, Surf Scoter, and Black Scoter. As well as Brant, Black Scoter, and White-winged Scoter in other locations. There were multiple reports, mostly of the aforementioned species in the east this day. I had originally gone to this location to look for Phalaropes pushed down by storm.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

_Common and Forster's are sparingly seen in my own county but I record them annually. Multiple trips per year to New Jersey (Cape May, Brig) allow me to observe these species in large numbers.

RE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ? (why or why not) _____ Yes,
structure, field marks point to ID. Adult bird so no confusion as with juveniles.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation _Sibley _____ After observation _Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion, an article on arctic/common complex by Michael O'Brien on birdcapemay.org, Peterson Advanced Birding, various photos

DATE OF REPORT: _____ Oct. 28, 2009 _____

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER _____

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea

Date of Sighting: 24 October 2009 to 24 October 2009

County : PIKE

Location : LAKE WALLENPAUPACK

Observer(s): Kevin Ripka

Date of Submission: 2009

Submitted by: Kevin Ripka

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

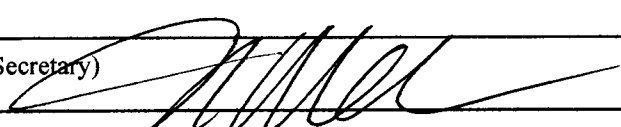
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
R. Wiltschko			X	X				
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson					X			
B. Coulter			X					
C. Rutt				X				
J. Heller			X					
G. Malosh				X				
TOTALS			3	3	1			
DECISION				X				

Comments: 3/4

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

