



Royal TERN
364-01-2004
Peace Valley Park, Berks Co, PA
9/29/04
Thomas Ford Hutchinson



Royal TERN
364-01-2004
Peace Valley Park, Berks Co, PA
9/29/04
Charles Crankleton



Royal Tern
364-01-2004
Peace Valley Park, Bucks Co, PA
9/29/04
Bill ETTER



UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Species (common & scientific): Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*)

Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex(es):** ?

Age(s) & Plumage(s): Juvenile

Date Seen: 9/29/04 **Time: Approx.** 11AM – 2PM

Where Seen (Town/County): New Britain Twp., Bucks Co.

Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake): Peace Valley Co. Park

Observer Reporting:

Name: August Mirabella

Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

E-mail: augustmirabella@aol.com

Telephone (optional): 215-368-0594

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you): None. Seen by many after ID'd

Distance to Bird: As close as 75 feet

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Didn't note

Optical Equipment Used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins & Leica 77APO w/20–60X Zoom

Habitat: Large lake

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage; bill, eye, & leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): The bird was a juvenile but did not have as much brown on the mantle or wings as the field guides show. I assume it was molting into an adult. Forehead was clean white with black band from eye to back of head with crest. The bill was more yellow than orange but for some reason the photos & video I saw showed the bill more orange than I thought it actually was. Mantle and folded wings were mottled instead of clean gray but not strikingly so with minor darker barring showing on the folded wings. Tail was slightly forked. The under wings were white with darker wing tips. Upper primaries were dark in folded wing and in flight. Some residual dark barring in the wing could be seen in flight and sitting. Legs were dark which again I assume means indicates the bird was advanced toward adult characters.

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Sitting on a fishing pier, flying, and diving headfirst catching fish

Vocalizations: Not heard

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report):

Photos taken by Thomas Ford-Hutchison thomasf-h@comcast.net & Chuck Crunkleton ccrunkleton@comcast.net. I believe were submitted to Nick Pulcinella by E-mail. Also, video by A. Mirabella submitted with this documentation.

Separation from Similar Species (How you eliminated others): The Caspian Tern is bulkier, has heavy streaking on the forehead, a more orange/red bill on the juvenile, less forked tail, paler upper wing, and much more extensive black on the under wing. Juv. Elegant Tern does not have the dark wing plumage, and more extensive black cap and crest area, among other points.

Discussion (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it):

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species: Observed frequently at the shore

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not): Yes, field marks were clearly seen.

References:

During Observation: Sibley's

After Observation: Sibley's, photos by Thomas Ford-Hutchinson, and my video

Date of report: 12/26/04

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Royal Tern (Sterna maxima)

Date of Sighting: 29 September 2004 to 29 September 2004

Location: PEACE VALLEY PARK

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): August Mirabella m.obs

Date of Submission: 2004

Submitted by: August Mirabella, Bill Etter, Charles Crunkleton, Devich Fatbotnik, Thomas Ford-Hutchinson

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

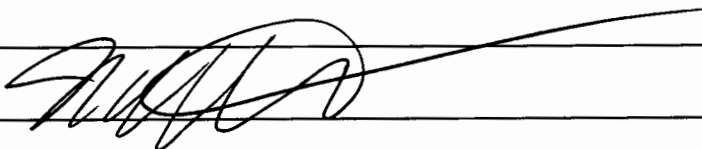
Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 8/7/05