





364-04-2011

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. Fill in all relevant fields and then click on the "Submit by Email" button at the end of the form to send it to the PORC Secretary. Or print the form and mail it to the PORC Secretary (see address below).

NOTE: The fields scroll down as you type to permit as much text as needed.
The **RESET** button clears all of the fields if you wish to start over with a blank form.

Species (Common and Scientific Name):

Royal Tern

Subspecies, if known

Number of individuals Sex(es)

1

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):

Immature

Date and Time of Observation

10:00 am August 28, 2011

Location (City, Borough, Township)

Washington Boro, Lancaster County PA

Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)

Overlook adjacent Avocet Point of the Conejohela Flats

Observer Reporting:

Name

J. Eric Witmer

Address State Zip

230 Mason Drive , Ephrata, PA 17522

E-mail (Optional)

hawkowl@ptd.net

Phone (Optional)

717 314 0623

Other Observers (Only Those Who Saw and Identified the Bird with You):

Jerry Book

Habitat (E.g. Mowed Field, Woodland Edge, Any other details)

Susquehanna River shallows with several adjacent mud/sand bars

Distance to Bird (Specify feet, yards, etc.)

100 -1000yards

Viewing Conditions (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you)

overcast, occassional light rain with gusty winds to 30 MPH

Optical Equipment Used

Leica 10x44 Binoculars and Leica 20-30X 77MM APO Spotting Scope

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):

During the passing of Tropical Storm/Hurricane Irene to our East. Several Birders watched the Conejohela Flats from the Overlook. About 10:00 AM a larger tern flew upriver fairly close to the shoreline at slightly below eye level. Immediately I noticed that it had a yellow/orange bill. Much less red/orange coloration than the Caspian Terns that were in the area. The bill was smaller and not as thick as Caspian Tern either. It had a more streamlined appearance than Caspian Tern but was somewhat larger than Common/Forster's Tern that were also in the area.

There was a broad dark line thru the eye that extended thru the lower crown. The forehead and upper crown were white. (No dark cap)

The tail was white with a slight fork. No tail streamers.

Notable in flight on the upper side of the wings were two darker bars running along the secondaries. The primaries above were dark. There was another dark bar on the leading edge of the wing. These darker rows of feathers stood out in flight and are not consistent with the even gray scaled appearance of Imm. Caspian Terns that are seen very regularly on the Flats in the fall.

The under wing appeared light with no significant dark coloration.

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

Flew upriver and then across the flats toward the western (York County) side of river. After clearing the trees of Green Island, I assume it flew back down river.

Vocalizations

None

Supporting evidence if any: (Check all that apply)

Photograph

Video Recording

Audio Recording

Drawing

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name

Address

City State Zip

E-mail (Optional)

Phone (Optional)

Please send a copy of the photograph, drawing, or recording to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, Pa 19380
Nickpulcinella@verizon.net

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)

Much heavier bird than Common /Forsters Tern . Smaller and more steam lined than Caspian Tern.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Previous experience with this and/or similar species

Have seen Royal Terns regularly along the Atlantic Coast. Familiar with Caspian, Common, and Forster's Terns.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

yes

References Consulted:

During Observation

None

After Observation

Date of this Report:

Sep 6, 2011

(Click on the box and select date from calendar)

Reset Form

Submit by Email

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Royal Tern Sterna maxima

Date of Sighting: 28 August 2011 to 28 August 2011

County : LANCASTER

Location : CONEJOHELA FLATS, WASHINGTON BORO

Observer(s): Eric Witmer, Jerry Book

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Eric Witmer

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	
D. DeReamus	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
R. Koury			X					
D. Weber	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	6		1					
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/11/12