





382-01-1996

REPORT OF AN UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES AND/OR HIGH NUMBERS

SPECIES: Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*

OBSERVER(S) WRITING ACCOUNT: Paul Schwalbe & Glenna Schwalbe

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 7 September 1996

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: 7-9 September 1996

DATE OF REPORT: 15 February 1997

LOCATION: Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County, PA.

PHOTOS: Slides attached, also see PA BIRDS, 10:157, 1996.

SIGNIFICANCE OF OBSERVATION: First county record.

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH OBSERVATION WAS MADE: See Pulcinella 1996, also other features listed below in PA BIRDS, 10: 162. This was a product of Hurricane Fran as the above articles will state. About 9:00 a.m. in the morning. Heavy clouds and windy, but no rain.

HABITAT: The swimming beach at Bald Eagle State Park.

DESCRIPTION: See attached slides and photo in PA BIRDS as above. Black above, white below, white color with black cap. Bill black with some red, lower mandible longer than upper, short red legs. Long squat appearance.

ELIMINATION OF OTHER SPECIES: No contest.

EXPERIENCE (with this and similar species): Both of us have seen many Black Skimmers many, many times; especially along the eastern coast.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: B & L - 8 X 42 Elites and a Kowa TSN-4, 25X.

REFERENCES/LITERATURE CITED:

PA BIRDS. 1996. See "Summary of the Season", "Birds of Note", "Photographic Highlights" and "Local Notes"; all in Vol 10.

Pulcinella, Nick. 1996. Hurricane Fran's Fallout. Pennsylvania Birds, 10:138-142.

Paul Schwalbe
Glenna P. Schwalbe

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)

Date of Sighting: 7 September 1996 to 9 September 1996

Location: BALD EAGLE STATE PARK

County: CENTRE

Observer(s): Paul & Glenna Schwalbe

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Paul & Glenna Schwalbe

Written Description: YES

Photo: YES

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes	X							
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe								X
S. Feldstein	X							
TOTALS	6							1
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

8-16-97