







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

382-01-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name)

BLACK SKIMMER: CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

Subspecies (if known)

Rynchopinae niger

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS One **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

DATE OF OBSERVATION September 20, 2003 **TIME** 09:30AM - 10:00AM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) West Manheim Township, York County, PA 17331

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road)

Long Arm Reservoir (Dam);

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Beth Pugliese

Address 151 Oak Hills Drive

City Hanover State PA ZIP 17331

e-mail (optional) bdpugliese@suscom.net phone (optional) 717-632-1989

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

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details)

Large reservoir with mowed lawn on the side where the Black Skimmer was seen. Opposite side of the reservoir has trees. All bordered by local roads.

DISTANCE TO BIRD from parked car: 100 feet; as he skimmed the water's edge, I was within 10 feet of the bird taking pictures

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you)

The sky was clear. The weather was bright and sunny. I was facing north to a little bit north-east at times, so the sun was to my back and right (E/SE).

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED

CAMERA: Nikon Coolpix4500 Digital Camera. Focal length: 38.2mm; 1/431.7sec. f/7.3; digital zoom 2.60 (For the pictures)

First saw the Black Skimmer using binoculars: Eagle Optics 10X42. First observed: I was on the opposite side of the reservoir (the western edge). Checked with Spotting Scope: Leica Televid APO 77mm; Leica lens 20X - 60X zoom lens. When identified, I moved to the eastern side of the reservoir to observe and take the pictures.

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed CE size relative to other species present; irjizzl;= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

Bird was observed in flight above the reservoir (30 feet above) and also skimming the water's edge.

1. **PLUMMAGE:** The solid *Black and white plumage very clear*: Black above/white below/crown of head black/forehead white; NO eyerings or eye lines;
2. **WINGS:** Very long wings: *Upper*: black with the trailing edge of the secondaries and part of the primaries: white; *Lower*: primaries black ; most of remaining underwing: white
3. **SIZE:** More slender than the Ring-billed gulls present; approx. 20"
4. **TAIL:** Forked
5. **BILL:** Distinct bright red bill, with black tip.
6. **BILL:** Observed while skimming within a few feet of me: The lower mandible was a bit longer than the upper: hence the ability to skim the water.
- 7.

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

The Black Skimmer was observed flying above the water at 30 feet and then flying low over the water. He would keep circling around the same section and the skim the water. He skimmed the water right by the water's edge, within 10 feet of where I was standing.

VOCALIZATIONS

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph YES: 4 different Photographs: Printed pictures included and pictures saved on floppy disk (2 different floppy disks) **Video recording** _____ **Audio recording** _____ **Drawing** _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name Beth Pugliese

Address 151 Oak Hills Drive

City Hanover State PA ZIP 17331

e-mail (optional) bdpugliese@suscom.net phone (optional) 717-632-1989

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) _____

DISCUSSION (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it).

This bird was observed after Hurricane Isabela in September 2003. A Black Skimmer was spotted and identified in Bedford County 1 or 2 days prior to my observation. The bird was probably 'blown' in by the Hurricane and was returning east to the coast during these days and spottings.

Bird observed for 30 minutes(flying and skimming the water) and at 10AM, he flew South/east.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

I have observed Black Skimmers in their normal environment of coastal bodies of water.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ? (why or why not)

Absolutely positive. This is an easy bird to identify. What is unusual is WHERE he was observed.

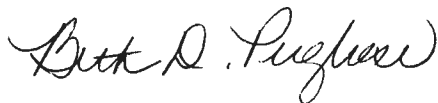
REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation "*Sibley Guide to Birds*" by David Sibley and "*Peterson Birds of Eastern and Central North America*" Fifth Edition

After observation Same as above.

DATE OF THIS REPORT: December 29, 2003

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER



Submitted:

Beth D. Pugliese

151 Oak Hills Drive

Hanover, PA 17331 West Manheim Twp; York Co.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Black Skimmer (Rynchops niger)

Date of Sighting: 20 September 2003 to 20 September 2003

Location: LONG ARM RESERVOIR

County : YORK

Observer(s): Beth Pugliese

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Beth Pugliese

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

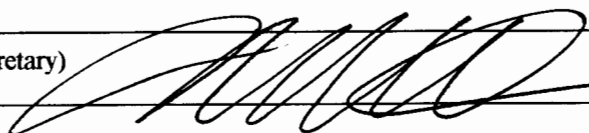
Specimen: No

Recording: No

| Member | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V | Abstain |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| G. Amistead R. WITMER | 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:

2/27/03