

Pennsylvania Ornithological
Records Committee

Mr. Nick Pulcinella, Secretary

Dr. Mr. Roy Ickes, Chairman

210 Welcome Avenue

Norwood, PA 19074

0804-01-2005

Hope House, Bethl. Twp., N. Hampton Co., Monday 5 Dec, 2005

Proposed Species: Great-white Heron

Local: Green Pond, Bethlehem Twp., North-

hampton County, Pennsylvania 18020

near Farmersville & Green Pond Rds.,

& ^{near} Moravian Academy Upper School (pond

owners) & Northampton Community College.

(Dr. Nancy Johnston, birder, lives ^{at Farmersville & Gr. Pond} in the house

with her retired husband, Mr. Robert Con-

voy (for at least 25 years), and has

emassed a database on all the birds

they've seen there (pondscum @ enter.net).

These include unofficially Sandhill Crane,

Glossy Ibis (accepted by E. PA Bird-line), Black-

bellied Plover, Black Swan, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mourning Warbler, and Orchard Oriole (~~Confirmed~~ ^{Probable} breeding, P), and is the PA Breeding Bird Atlas block of Mr. David Dereamus (Ms. Arlene Koch, Coordinator). Green Pond is being examined for IBA status by PA Audubon, ^(Kim Van Fleet) It is in the middle of the "Drylands" between the Kittatinny and South Mountain. A migratory stopover for Indians and birds for centuries, it is fed by an underground water fault, and is the largest body of water between Bethlehem and Easton.)

Date: Labor Day, Monday 1 September 2005, ~ 2 d after Katrina.

Weather: warm, clear, or mostly clear skies, light to no winds.

Travel: Car, bike, then around the pond on foot.

Habitat: large pond surrounded by shrubbery, wetlands plants, and large trees and snags. The north side bordered by wetland & other low vegetation, a wood, low fence, and Farmersville Road, which was moderately traveled by cars and bicycles. Other species present of note: juv. B-CNH. Observance: self, and non-birder friend, (Mr. R. W. Dow, Jr., → Time ~ 1400-1500 h.

* rwdowjr@verizon.net, teacher at Mor. Acad.).

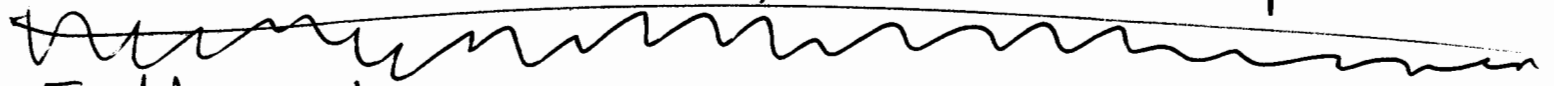
General descriptions:

size: about that of a Snowy Egret, a little larger overall shape: long legs, ^{moderately long} wings, long body w/o head & neck, long, full, S-shaped neck, long beak, round head, no plume

Colors: white, except for yellow legs and yellow bill, dark eyes or yellow, pale eyes (sorry, I did not record, ^{immediately} Foot: yellow/brilliant, crayon-white in sun

General Description, continued

Tail: moderate length, ^{roundedly-} square at tip



Field marks:

no streaks, spots, wing bars

yellow bill, ^{light} greenish toward base, same color pattern on lower and upper mandibles, crease between mandibles a thin black line (noticeable)

Behavior: perched high in snag (another bird, a GBH, did this in another snag 40 yards away). Periodically, flew from end-to-end of the pond with deep, laborous, slow, flowing wingbeats.

Once it extended its neck briefly while perched (sunning?); it was ~ over a ft. long, ^{so it seemed}... it always flew with a "crooked",

Behavior, cont.

S-shaped neck.

Skeletal measurement approximations

and features: no further data, except that its tarsi were slightly shorter than its lower legs. Feet (toes = phalanges) were about an ^{1/2-1} inch longer than a Snowy Plover (Sibley's Guide to Birds Snowy Plover, i.e.).

~~Plumage~~ Plumage Comment: very smooth and contoured.

Similar species (according to Sibley's): juv. Snowy ~~Plovers~~ ^{Egrets} still have black phalanges, and the bill is more blackish toward the bill base; ^{than yellow-green} this bird may also have had the yellowish-light green lores, but I committed a birding felony and didn't document on the spot.

NCC; B. Hl.
↑

- 6 - S Stevenson

SKETCH

yellow bill
black "mouth"
yellow iris/green

2 part eye (iris noticeable)

More thin and linear than this drawing overall; less stocky and robust - perched standing up straight

~~fly~~ retrices, remeges, contour feathers on neck and head pure white

legs yellow (incl. toes) + joints obvious in outlined form

E, toward Mon. Acad., incl. biol. house (field)

highway in distance (I-?)

Pond

Snag, poss. (with some whitish-tight green minimal, unhealthy-looking foliage) (a willow spp., or Black Willow Poplar)

edge

Gr. Pd. Rd



Johnston - Conroy's

Cont. → (over) *

St. ... N. toward Farmersville Rd.

Stevenson

- 7 -
Photo or video confirmation: I shall

email any photos, adequate or not, to the Secretary by Jan. 15, 2006, unless for health reasons I need an extension, (will be in communication).

The CD is ready at CUS; I simply have to pick it up, and email the photos, both of the bird perched and flying, I hope.

Thankfully and Respectfully signed, for submission ~~submitted~~ on Tuesday 6 Dec. 2005,

Pymatung w. PA

Ad Addendum History:

at least two records in The Birds of Pennsylvania (McWilliams & Brauning ~ 2000). Not mentioned, Bird Studies at Old Cape May (Stone 1937), Audubon Encyclopedia of N. Am. Birds

Grant Stevenson

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not consulted (Terres 1980),[†] but contains dist. info. in species acct. w. (very) pass. northern records. Recently (2005, Fall), siting (pass.) posted (M. Vass?) on PA Birds, in w. PA (?).

† unavailable to me here

(cont., over)

Postscript to PORC, and PA ~~B~~irders and
ornithologists:

Honor Pledge -

All the preceding facts are true to the best of my knowledge, as far as I know, Any inaccuracies, which I ~~maintain~~ stand by to ~~stand by to~~ and that there are none with my personal, ~~and~~ birdwatching, and amateur ornithological ^{and knowledge,} honor, are due to unintended mistakes, for which I apologize, and not intentional efforts to deceive and thus dishonestly further my amateur career. I offer my reputation and future as collateral. Thank you ^{for} this opportunity and privilege.



12/6/05

~~Dr.~~ Ack.: Dr. Dan Klem, Jr., former OTC member, D. Sci., Sarkis

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Great White Heron (Ardea herodias occidentalis)

Date of Sighting: 1 September 2005 to 1 September 2005

Location: GREEN POND

County : NORTHAMPTON

Observer(s): Grant Stevenson, R.W. Dow

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: Grant Stevenson

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	Abstain
R. Wiltraut						X		
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson				X				
J. Stanley						X		
E. Witmer						X		
J. Heller					X			
G. Malosh				X				
TOTALS			1	2	1	3		
DECISION						X		

Comments: 1/6

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 11/16/06