

<b>Submission Date</b>	2012-10-30 21:34:17
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Chris Blazo
<b>E-mail</b>	cblazo@localnet.com
<b>Observer's Address</b>	City: St. Thomas State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17202 Country: United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Bill Oyler, Laurie ?
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Piping Plover
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Charadrius melodus
<b>Subspecies (if known)</b>	melodus
<b>Number of individuals</b>	2
<b>Have you submitted this to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Winter Adult
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	10-30-2012 5:30 PM
<b>County</b>	Franklin
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Hamilton Township
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Back Creek off of Edgewater Dr.
<b>Habitat</b>	A large flooded pasture with a mature Oak grove on the eastern side along Back Creek.
<b>Distance to bird</b>	200'
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Overcast. Drizzling. Breezy.
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Nikon 8x42
<b>Description</b>	A small, chunky, pale bird with no neck and orange legs. The face was very pale and the bill was short and stubby and dark. The upperparts were a light sandy color with a white collar, eyebrow and forehead. The underparts were white.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	Typical plover behavior. Constant ground probing and movement. Was being pushed around by the Laughing and Bonaparte's Gulls.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

There were thousands of shorebirds in this spot. So the lighter colored Piping plovers stood out among the Westerns with their shorter bills and larger size. They were about the same size as the Sanderlings, but had a shorter bill and a white color. The Piping plovers also have orange legs and feet.

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

I don't have a camera, but there were two other birders that were there. Bill Oyster was one of them.

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

Yes. I know them from living in Florida for a few years. They were on the beaches in the winter.

**During**

Stokes Field Guide to Birds of NA

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