

# PA Rare Bird Report

## PORC Rare Bird Report

Please check the PA Review List before submitting a report if you are unsure whether or not the species is rare: <http://www.pabirds.org/records/index.php/review-list/>

All information submitted through this form (including photographs) will become publicly available on the [PORC website](#). You may choose to exclude your address and phone number if you prefer.

Refer to [this webpage](#) for tips on how to document your sightings.

<b>Observer's Name</b>	Dave DeReamus
<b>E-mail</b>	becard@rcn.com
<b>Phone</b>	4847889280
<b>Observer's Address</b>	3339 Allen Street Easton, PA, 18045-5601 United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Discovered earlier by Billy Weber and Matt Sabatine.

## Documentation

<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Willet (Eastern)
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Tringa semipalmata semipalmata
<b>Subspecies (if known)</b>	"Eastern" Willet
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Adult in breeding plumage
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	Tuesday, May 3, 2016 12:00
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S66693054">https://ebird.org/checklist/S66693054</a>
<b>County</b>	Northampton
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Bethlehem Township

<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	St. Luke's Hospital Anderson Campus retention pond
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	N 40.646736, W 75.287822
<b>Habitat</b>	Retention pond with vegetated edge. Muddy edge covered by rain storm.
<b>Distance to bird</b>	Approximately 50 feet.
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Light rain and drizzle with low cloud ceiling.
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Eagle Optics 10x42

### Description

Large shorebird with bulky body and fairly long, grayish legs. Only bird present, so nothing to compare its size to. Lighter-based (pinkish) bill with outer half very dark in color, fairly thick and blunt-ended, and a little longer than the width of the head from front to back. Dark-streaked head showed faint eye ring and dark lore line with a lighter area just above it. Dark-streaked neck. Breast heavily speckled with markings becoming more sparse towards belly. Belly mostly white. Both the sides and flanks showed dense chevron markings, giving the appearance from a distance of heavy bars along its length. Mantle was mostly dark. Scapulars appeared to be gray-based with dark barring near feather tips. Tertiaries were heavily barred and primaries appeared to be entirely dark. Some bars were evident on edge of exposed tail and undertail coverts.

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

Bird was walking in and along the water's edge of the retention pond, occasionally picking and probing for food in the water.

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

Definitely a Willet. The question was which subspecies? The following points to an "Eastern" Willet: Thick and blunt two-toned bill showed no hint of being upturned. Heavily barred bird with bold markings overall. More details in "Description" section.

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

Matt Sabatine has one more-distant photo of it with its wings outstretched. That photo can be seen at: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S29377683>

**Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)** Yes, everything appears to point to an "Eastern" Willet.

## References Consulted

**After** "The Shorebird Guide" by O'Brien, Crossley, and Karlson.

## Uploads

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**

Photograph

**Upload images, audio, video or drawings**



**Click to edit**

PORC-webform00238