

## RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION Records of Vermont Birds

The following form has been prepared to encourage full documentation, when requested, of rare or unseasonal birds in the state of Vermont. These reports are put into a permanent file and should be as detailed as possible. New reports are reviewed annually by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which evaluates records for their acceptability to future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list.

Please print or type

**SPECIES:** American White Pelican

**NUMBER OBSERVED:** 1

**OBSERVER MAKING REPORT: OTHER OBSERVERS:** Tim Biebel, 267 Taylor Dr. Windsor, VT 05089

**LOCATION:** Mill Pond; Windsor, Vermont; Windsor County

**DATE:** 9/15/16

**TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION:** 7:20 a.m. for 15-20 minutes

**DISTANCES FROM BIRD:** Maximum 100 yards Minimum 50 Yards

**WEATHER:** Temperatures were in the mid 50's and it was overcast with a thick fog.

wind direction None wind speed None

sky cover Heavy Fog light in relation to observer's position temperature \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT:** N/A

**OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:**

I've never seen this bird before. An employee mentioned that he'd identified it on his way to work in the morning so I decided to take a trip to Mill Pond to see for myself.

**OTHER DOCUMENTATION:** Photo X Tape Recording \_\_\_\_\_ Specimen \_\_\_\_\_

If yes to the above, where is this information deposited? I've attached the pictures to the email.

**HABITAT:** (be as detailed as possible, include associated bird species)

Mill Pond is in the process of being drained so repairs can be made to the dam so there was a lot of exposed vegetation, such as lily pads and Milfoil, that is normally underwater where the Pelican was floating.

**BIRD'S BEHAVIOR:** (feeding actions, manner of flight, displays or interactions, reaction to observer)

While I was observing the Pelican it's behavior was docile. It didn't move much until I approached to within 50 yards of it at which point it slowly swam to deeper waters.

**VOCALIZATION:** (song or calls) None

**DESCRIPTION:** (Describe what you actually saw during the observation. We hope that observers will take field notes during the observation and before consulting field guides, etc. Additional pages with sketches and copies of field notes are encouraged.)

**Relative size and shape:** The body shape was similar to that of a goose but larger.

**Head** (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape): White head, white throat, small black eyes at the base of the bill.

**Feet and Bill** (shape, color, length): long, orange colored bill approximately the same length as the neck.

**Upper back:**

**Lower back and rump:**

**Wings** (shape, length, markings): there appeared to be dark colorings on the wings, but it was hard to tell because the Pelican never extended its wings to allow for a clear look.

**Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts:** From what I could tell it was white everywhere. It was hard to tell because the bird never came out of the water.

**Tail** (shape, length, markings): n/a

**IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?** I only saw the pelican and took some pictures that I then sent to Vermont Fish and Wildlife for identification. I did not personally identify the bird by process of elimination.

**COMMENTS:** (was age or sex determined?, etc.)

This report was written from notes taken during \_\_\_\_\_ immediately after \_\_\_\_\_ the observation, or written from memory  (please attach copies of notes if available)

NAME (print) Timothy Biebel SIGNATURE (not req'd) 

MAILING ADDRESS 261 Taylor Dr., Windsor, VT 05089

DATE 9/27/16

Return electronically (preferred) to: [vbrc@vtcostudies.org](mailto:vbrc@vtcostudies.org) or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055





