

## ILLINOIS

I.O.R.C. RECORD NUMBER

DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS  
SUBMITTED TO ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE (I.O.R.C.)

This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):

- Unusual species;  Unusual date;  Unusual number,  
 Unusual plumage;  Unusual breeding record;  Christmas Count record;  Spring Count record;  
 Breeding Census record;  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Species: American White Pelican  
 2. Number of birds: 1 Age/sex/plumage: Adult  
 3. Date(s): 12-21-97  
 4. Location (incl. County): Betterdow, Ia. shoreline of Mississippi River, Scott County,  
 5. Observers:  
 Your name: Kelly J. McKay Phone: (309) 792-5981  
 Mailing address: 6143 34th Avenue Moline, IL 61265  
 Others agreeing with identification: Jim and Chris Kingman, Keith Blunt, Donna Blair,  
Mary Foullk  
 Observers NOT agreeing with identification: None  
 6. Physical description (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on the head, back, breast, undertail, wings, and tail; coloration of bill, eye, legs and feet) of details actually seen in the field:

We observed this large white waterfowl standing along on the river shoreline. It was all over white with black primaries and secondaries. It had a large, pale pointed bill and pinkish-orange ~~feet~~ tarsi. The bird was about the size of a swan.

[OVER]

Species American White Pelican Date seen: 12-21-97 Observer: Kelly J. McKay

7. Description of behavior: The bird was simply standing and partially sleeping most of the time.
8. Description of vocalizations: none
9. Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s): sandy shoreline of the Mississippi River main channel, surrounded by a treelined hedge row and agricultural fields and industrial property.
10. Viewing conditions:  
Optical equipment (type, power): Leica Ultra 10x42 binoculars; KONA TSN 822 20x-60x spotting scope  
Distance / how measured? ~.075 mile / estimated  
Time(s) of observation: 1245 Total time of observation: 10 minutes  
Weather (including larger weather patterns where relevant) / sky conditions / relative position of sun: Overcast, with moderate wind, the sun was not visible and the light was not very good.
11. Previous experience with this and similar species: Considerable experience with this and similar species.
12. Reasons for eliminating other similar species and/or hybrids:  
All swans - dark tarsi and they all lack the large pale punched bill and black primaries and secondaries.  
Snow Goose - much smaller and lacks the large pale punched bill and black secondaries.
13. Were photos obtained? no By whom? \_\_\_\_\_ Attached? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Books & illustrations consulted, and advice received. How did these influence this description?  
National Geographic Birds of North America - used to check field mark of this and other similar species
15. How long after observation were field notes recorded? 2 hrs.
16. How long after observation was this form completed? 14 days
17. Additional remarks:

Signed Kelly J. McKay Date 1-4-98