

VOTING SUMMARY

WEST VIRGINIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Number: WVBRC 2024-2

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake - Pleasants Co.

Reasons voting FOR the record: (*attach more pages if necessary*)

CM1 - Thorough description of plumage and other characteristics

Photograph, though poor quality, showing distinguishing characteristics

CM2 - Gulls can be problematic for identification, but this individual is relatively straightforward with plumage differences allowing separation from Bonaparte's, Little, etc. Great find and documentation!

CM3 - This is a generally well described record, and photographic evidence is provided to support the observation. Although the photographs are not completely clear due to magnification to show critical field marks, they are adequate for identification purposes. Other small gull species are eliminated by the nature of the head markings and the dark collar. Perhaps the key field mark that identifies the bird as a juvenile kittiwake is the dark collar which is only seen on juvenile/first winter Black-legged and Red-legged Kittiwakes. While not mentioned in the record, the lighter gray back visible in the photos separates Black-legged from Red-legged Kittiwake, as Red-legged (a much rarer bird in the lower 48 only reported in far western states) would have a darker back than the bird in the photos.

CM4 - Description is accurate. Images, though poor quality, also suggest this species.

CM5 - Detailed description, useable photographs, and experienced observer who has seen the species before.

CM6 - Nice write up. Although supplied images are not the best they show enough field marks to support a juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake. Red-legged Kittiwake does not have a black tail. Congrats to Terry. Excellent record for WV!

CM7 - Attached photos confirm the species

- Report and photos submitted from a reputable birder
- Written descriptions in report were thorough and supportive