

Black-headed Gull
Larus ridibundus

Date: 2, February 1997

Location: Peace Valley Park, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

On 2, February 1997, I saw the staked out Black-headed Gull that had been frequenting Peace Valley Park for about a week. The bird was found in the company of a large flock of gulls which contained mostly Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) and small numbers of Herring (*L. argentatus*) and Great Black-backed Gulls (*L. marinus*). The Black-headed Gull fed side-by-side with the other gulls, successfully fighting for handouts being offered by several people. I watched the gull from distances of 20 feet to 200 yards both standing on the ground and in flight. I was using 7x42 binoculars and 20x60 spotting scope. Several photographs were taken.

General description and size: A medium sized gull with light gray back, red-bill and red legs.

Head: White, with a black smudge behind the ear coverts.

Upperparts: Gray. Upperwing light gray with the outermost primary black. A white triangle or wedge was formed by the combination of the next three or four white primaries and the remaining grayish wing. Underwings gray.

Underparts: White.

Tail: White.

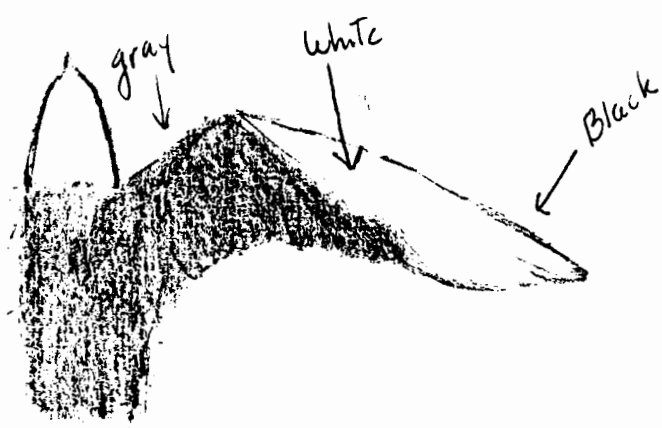
Bare Parts: Bill red. ^{1/2} ~~Tail~~ red.

Separation from similar species: From basic plumaged Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*) by lack of partial grayish hood, lack of dark back, lack of dark bill and legs and lack of overall dark-grayish upper and underwing. Separation from basic plumaged Bonaparte's Gull (*L. philadelphia*) by larger size, gray underwing and black smudge to ear coverts as opposed to a black spot on the Bonaparte's. From basic plumaged Ross' (*Rhodostethia rosea*) by lack of white wedged shaped tail, presence of white triangular wing pattern and black smudge to ear covert. From basic plumaged Little Gull by large size and grayish as opposed to black underwing color of Little Gull.

Nick Pulcinella
 201 Elm Avenue
 Swarthmore, PA 19081

cc. PORC w/ photos
 Dave Cutler - Regional editor Audubon Field Notes w/ photos
 Ken Kitson - Bucks County compiler for PA Birds

Upperwing Pattern



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Date of Sighting: 2 February 1997 to 2 February 1997

Location: PEACE VALLEY COUNTY PARK

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Nick Pulcinella; August & Judy Mirabella

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Nick Pulcinella; August & Judy Mirabella

Written Description: YES

Photo: YES

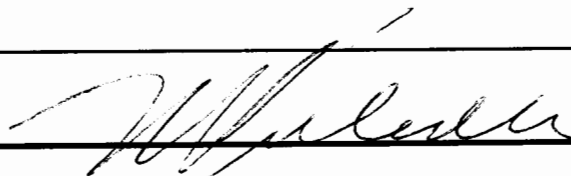
Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
K. Parkes								X
R. Ickes	X							
P. Hess	X							
J. McWilliams	X							
T. Floyd	X							
TOTALS	6							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 6/6/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

6/26/00