

340-01-1999

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Larus ridubundus

Location: Presque Isle State Park

Date: April 1, 1999

Time: 10:30 AM to noon and 2:30 to 3:30 PM

Weather: Viewing conditions were fair to good.

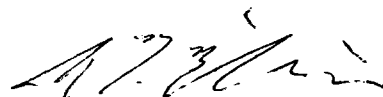
Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Kowa TSN 4 at variable power

Viewing distance: as close as 300 yards and as far away as a half a mile

Details of sighting and description: While looking through a flock of about 1500 perched Bonaparte's Gulls I saw a Black-headed Gull fly in and join the flock. It looked like a large pale mantled Bonaparte's Gull when perched. It was in complete alternate definitive plumage. The dark brown (looking black in poor light) hood extended down to the throat, across the face, behind the eye, and over the back of the head. The nape and neck were white. There were white eyelets above and below the eye. The bill was dark red (looking black in poor light) turning black at the tip and heavier than the Bonaparte's Gull. The mantle was paler gray than the Bonaparte's Gull which was an aid in picking it out of the flock, even at a distance. The breast, belly, undertail coverts, and tail were pure white with a slight pink blush to the lower breast. The legs were heavier than Bonaparte's Gulls and red not pinkish as in Bonaparte's of the same age. In flight the upper wings were the same color as the mantle. A white wedge beginning with the narrow end at the wrist extended to include the outer four primaries at the widest end. Most of the primaries were tipped with black. The undersides of the outer four or five primaries were black. They are white in Bonaparte's Gull. This was the only characteristic to separate it from Bonaparte's Gulls when it was in flight.

I have seen and identified five of the six records in Erie County. All but one have been adults in alternate definitive plumage. In July 1998 I studied and photographed many Black-headed Gulls in various plumages in London, England.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 1 April 1999 to 1 April 1999

Location: ERIE

County: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0/0

Signature (Secretary):

Date: 11/2/00