

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpulcinella@comcast.net

340-01-2005

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Common Black-headed Gull

Subspecies, if known Larus ridibundus

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) unknown

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult) In breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable: 1 adult in basic plumage

DATE OF OBSERVATION 3/27/05 TIME 1320

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Dauphinboro, PA/Vicinity from Harrisburg, PA (Dauphin Cant)

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) upriver from 5661 N. Front St along Susquehanna River

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Tom Johnson
Address 24 Meadowood Dr
City Harrisburg State PA ZIP 17036
e-mail (optional) tomjohnson@comcast.net phone (optional) home (717) 566-9975

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): none - Deane Hoffman viewed the bird later in the afternoon on 3/27

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) river @ ripids section

DISTANCE TO BIRD ~ 1/4 mile

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) overcast, intermittent drizzle, 50°F

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Scope - Swarovski ATS H-D-80 w/ 20-60x zoom eyepiece

DESCRIPTION (include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

Size - substantially larger than surrounding Bonaparte's Gulls, dwarfed the Little Gulls in the Park
Jizz - deeper wingbeats, wider wings as compared to BOG

Head - back part behind eye with dark streak extending up to crown
Bill - did not see it. Probably because of light + weather appeared darker than BOG
Wings - dorsal surface - white outer primaries w/ black tips, gray secondaries, etc.
ventral surface - white outer primaries, thin black patch covering rest of primaries ending in gray by inner primaries

bill - white, like adult BOG
legs - appeared dark when banking - did not see red, probably because of light + distance

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) the bird was feeding with a gull flock that included 200-300 Bonaparte's Gulls and a little gulls. This bird spent most of its time sitting on water, picking at surface w/ bill. It could easily find it in flight but at deeper wingbeats than BOG, larger size, broader. Fish underwater with long primaries

VOCALIZATIONS none heard

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph Video recording Audio recording Drawing ✓ - along w/ 4160 sketch scanned into computer + printed

Name Tom Johnson

Address City State ZIP

e-mail (optional) phone (optional)

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition General condition
If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known General condition

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

Bonaparte's - larger size, deeper flight jizz (wingbeats), black ventral portion of inner primaries separate from BH Gull from BOG, BOG would have white on the ventral portion of primaries, and also a slimmer bill

Little - had advantage of comparing to this species - the BH is larger, pointed wing, white outer primaries w/ black tips - this is tiny w/ primary flight, dark cap, laughing - see below sign where

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Another BH Gull was seen the same week at Conowingo, MD on the Susq. River, however that bird was in alternate plumage. Interestingly, this is a fairly late date to see BH Gull in basic plumage.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES None w/ BH Gull. Lots of experience w/ migrant Bonaparte's Gull each Spring on Susq. River, both in areas close to ship channel + Conowingo, much experience w/ several migrating Gulls + other birds in PA

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) Yes - I viewed the bird well, observed necessary black primary patch (underwing) lower jizz (than BOG), the bird was also observed later in the day by Deane Hoffman.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation none
After observation Sibley Guide to Birds, New Geo field guide

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 3/28/05

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Tom Johnson

Laughing Gull - BH has white outer primaries + limited black tips on dorsal wing as well as light gray secondaries coverts (uppening). White outer primaries are visible from the underside of the wing when LAO is thicker in jizz, has dark uppening w/ not white visible on outer primaries.



Adult Black-headed Gull
-basic plumage-



Adult Little Gull
-basic plumage-



SKETCHES FOR PORC REPORT

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 Subspecies, if known Larus ridibundus

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) unknown

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): 1 adult in basic plumage

DATE OF OBSERVATION 3/27/05 TIME 1320

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Dauphin boro, PA / viewed from Harrisburg, PA (Dauphin County)

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) upriver from 5601 N. Front St along Susquehanna River
 ↖ Harrisburg

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Tom Johnson
 Address 24 Meadowood Dr.
 City Hummelsburg State PA ZIP 17036
 e-mail (optional) ✓ tomjohnson@comcast.net phone (optional) home - (717) 566-9875

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): none - Deanne Hoffman viewed the bird later in the afternoon on 3/27

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) river @ rapids section

DISTANCE TO BIRD ~ 1/4 mile

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) overcast, intermittent drizzle, 50°F

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED scope - Swarovski ATS HD-80 w/ 20-60x zoom eyepiece
- also Minox 10x32 binoculars

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

Size - substantially larger than surrounding Bonaparte's Gulls, dwarfed the Little Gulls in the flock

jizz - deeper wingbeats, wider wings as compared to BOGU

head - black spot behind eye, with dark streak extending up to crown

bill - did not see red, probably because of light + weather, appeared dark, heavier than BOGU

wings - dorsal surface - white outer primaries w/ black tips, gray secondaries, coverts, etc

ventral surface - white outer primaries, then a black patch covering rest of primaries fading to gray by inner primaries

tail - white, like adult BOGU

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

legs - appeared dark when banking - did not see red, probably because of light + distance

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) the bird was feeding with a gull flock that included 200-300 Bonaparte's Gulls and 3 Little Gulls. This bird spent most of its time sitting on water, picking @ surface w/ bill. I could easily find it in flight b/c of deeper wingbeats than BOGW, larger size, black flesh underneath wing on primaries

VOCALIZATIONS none heard

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing ✓

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name Tom Johnson

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (optional) _____

phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____

If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

Gulls - Bonaparte's - larger size, deeper flight jizz (wingbeats), black ventral portion of inner primaries separate ~~from~~ Bit Gull from BOGW, BOGW would have white on the ventral portion of primaries, and also a slimmer bill.
Little - had advantage of comparing to this species - her Bit is larger, pointed wings, white outer primaries w/ black tips - LIGU is tiny w/ bouncy flight, dark cap, laughing - see below signature

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: _____

Another Bit Gull was seen the same week @ Capiton, MD on the Susq. River. However, that bird was in alternate plumage. Interestingly, this is a fairly late date to see Bit Gull in basic plumage.

uniform upwing, rounded wingtip

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES None w/ Bit Gull. Lots of experience w/ migrant Bonaparte's Gulls each spring on Susq. River, half a dozen LIGUs on Stag. River + Ohio, much experience w/ coastal laughing Gulls + @ Tullytown, PA

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) Yes - I viewed the bird well, observed necessary black primary patch (underwing), larger jizz (than BOGW). The bird was also observed later in the day by Bernard Hoffman.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation none


After observation Sibley Guide to Birds, Nat Geo field guide

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 3/28/05


SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER

Tom Johnson

Laughing Gull - ^{basic adult} BH has white outer primaries + limited black ^{primary} tips on dorsal wing as well as light on gray secondaries, coverts (upwinging). White outer primaries are visible from the underside of the wing too.
LAGU is thicker in jizz, has darker upwinging w/ no white visible on outer primaries.



Adult Black-headed Gull
-basic plumage-



Adult Little Gull
-basic plumage-

**SKETCHES FOR
PORC REPORT**

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DATE OF OBSERVATION 3/27/05 TIME 1320

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Dauphin boro, PA / viewed from Harrisburg, PA (Dauphin County)

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) upriver from 5601 N. Front St along Susquehanna River
↖ Harrisburg

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Tom Johnson
 Address 24 Meadowood Dr
 City Hummelstown State PA ZIP 17036
 e-mail (optional) ☒ tomahawk@comcast.net phone (optional) home - (717) 566-9875

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): none - Deane Hoffman
viewed the bird later in the afternoon on 3/27

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) river @ rapids section

DISTANCE TO BIRD ~ 1/4 mile

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) overcast, intermittent drizzle, 50°F

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED scope - Swarovski AT5 HD-80 w/ 20-60x zoom eyepiece
- also Minox 10x32 binoculars

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

Size - substantially larger than surrounding Bonaparte's Gulls, dwarfed the Little Gulls in the flock

jizz - deeper wingbeats, wider wings as compared to BOG

head - black spot behind eye, with dark streak extending up to crown

bill - did not see red, probably because of light + weather, appeared dark, heavier than BOG

wings - dorsal surface - white outer primaries w/ black tips, gray secondaries, coverts, etc

ventral surface - white outer primaries, then a black patch covering rest of primaries fading to gray by inner primaries

tail - white, like adult BOG

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

legs - appeared dark when banking - did not see red, probably because of light + distance

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) the bird was feeding with a
gull flock that included 200-300 Bonaparte's Gulls and 3 Little Gulls. This bird
spent most of its time sitting on water, picking @ surface w/ bill. I could
easily find it in flight b/c of deeper wingbeats than BOGU, larger size, black flush
underneath wing primaries

VOCALIZATIONS none heard

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing ☒

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name Tom Johnson

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____

If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

Bonaparte's - larger size, deeper flight jizz (whimbys), black ventral portion of
inner primaries separate BH Gull from BOGU. BOGU would have
white on the ventral portion of primaries, and also a slimmer bill
Little - had advantage of comparing to this species - BH is larger, pointed wings,
white outer primaries w/ black tips - LIGU is tiny w/ bouncy flight, dark cap,
laughing - see below signature

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: _____

Another BH Gull was seen the same week @ Capitulum MD on the Susq. River,
however that bird was in alternate plumage. Interestingly, this is a fairly
late date to see BH Gull in basic plumage.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES None w/ BH Gull. Lots of
experience w/ migrant Bonaparte's Gulls each spring on Susq. River, half a dozen LIGUs on
Susq. River + Ohio, much experience w/ coastal laughing gulls + @ Tullytown, PA

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) Yes - I viewed the bird well,
observed necessary black primary patch (underwing), larger jizz (than BOGU). The bird
was also observed later in the day by David Hoffman.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation none

After observation Sibley Guide to Birds, New Geo field guide

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 3/28/05

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER

Tom Johnson

Laughing Gull - basic adult
BH has white outer primaries + limited black tips on dorsal wing
as well as light gray secondaries, coverts (upperwing). White outer
primaries are visible from the underside of the wing too.
LAGU is thicker in jizz, has dark upperwing w/ no white visible on
outer primaries.

uniform
upperwing
rounded
wingtip

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Black-headed Gull (Larus ridibundus)

Date of Sighting: 27 March 2005 to 27 March 2005

Location: HARRISBURG

County : DAUPHIN

Observer(s): Tom Johnson

Date of Submission: 2004

Submitted by: Tom Johnson

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

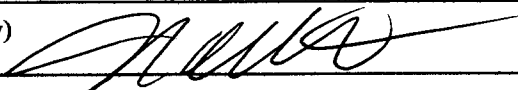
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut								
A. Guarente	X							
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
J. Heller			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS	1		5					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

7/24/06