



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@verizon.net

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Black-headed Gull (Larus ridibundus)
Subspecies (if known) _____

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): This appeared to be an adult in breeding plumage.

DATE OF OBSERVATION 26 March, 2008 TIME 12:45 p.m.

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Marysville, PA.

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) North Main Street at dead end.

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Pamela D. Fisher
Address 761 Willow Lane
City Gap State PA ZIP 17527
e-mail (optional) goldeagle-60@yahoo.com phone (optional) _____

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

None

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Swiftly moving river.

DISTANCE TO BIRD Approximately 1/2 mile

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) It was a partly sunny at that time. Temperature was 55-60°F, winds were NW @ 9 mph. The sun would have been slightly above, but slightly behind me.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Bushnell 15-45x spotting scope.

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): This was a hooded Gull, smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls, but slightly larger than the Bonaparte's which were present also. The hood came up high at the back of the head. The upperside of the wings had a white wedge similar to a Bonaparte's, but the underside had the primaries looking dark when in flight. At rest the wingtips appeared black. It would ride the current downriver, nodding its head, then fly upriver. It repeated this the whole time I was there.

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

It would ride the river's current downriver, then fly back upriver, to start the whole process again. While riding downriver, it would nod it's head up and down.

VOCALIZATIONS

I never heard it vocalize.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing X

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name Pamela D. Fisher

Address 761 Willow Lane

City GAP

State PA ZIP 17527

e-mail (optional) goldeagle-60@yahoo.com

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 and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

The size and underside of the wings was not right for a Little Gull. They are smaller, and the underside of the wings is darker. Bonaparte's have pale undersides. This bird also had black wingtips when at rest, which Little Gulls do not have. The dark primaries on the underside of the wing separated it from the Bonaparte's. The hood came up too high at the back of the head for a Laughing Gull.

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

This bird had been reported earlier by others.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

I have never seen Little Gulls, and this observation of Black-headed was my first. I have seen Bonaparte's Gulls many times. I have also seen Laughing Gulls.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not)

Absolutely yes. As stated earlier, size and markings were not right for Little or Bonaparte's Gulls. Also, this bird had been recorded here earlier by others. I had very good views, and a lot of time to observe this bird.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation _____

After observation Sibley's and Peterson's Field Guides

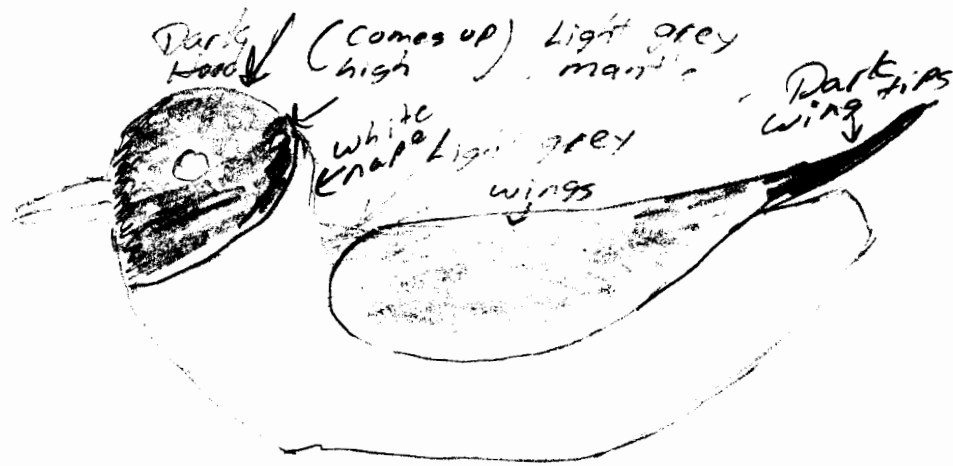
DATE OF THIS REPORT: 3 April, 2008

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER

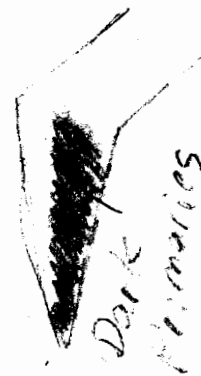
Pamela D. Fisher

Black-headed Gull
Marysville, PA.

Observed 25 March,
2008



Wing
underside



Wing
underside

Sketched 2 April 2008

This bird nodded its head constantly while resting on the water.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Location: Marysville, Perry County, PA

Date: March 16, 2008

Time: about 3:15 PM

Weather: Mostly cloudy, temp. about 50 F

Optics: 10 X 40 Zeiss Binocular and brief looks through another birders scope.

Details: I was visiting Dan Bogar in Marysville when he received a call about a Black-headed Gull that had been found just down the street from his house. Dan, his friend, and I drove down to the site where the bird had been reported. I scanned the river with my binocular as Dan scoped the river with his scope. I immediately spotted the possible adult Black-headed Gull sitting on the river drifting downstream perhaps 300 to 400 yards from us. I got Dan to get his scope on the bird and he agreed that it was the bird. He could see the dark red bill. After he and his friend had satisfying looks, Dan let me have a look and I could see the following field marks. It would occasionally drift passed a Ring-billed Gull and at that time you could see that it was smaller. The Black-headed had a partial dark hood that did not extend below the back of the head onto the nape. The hood extended around the face, but the forehead and forecrown were white. The bill seemed long and seemed to bulge slightly at the gony. The tip of the bill looked black, but the remainder was dark red. The red in the bill could only be seen well when it turned its head so that the light was right. The mantle was pale grey and seemed to match the tone in gray to the nearby Ring-billed Gulls. The neck and breast were all white. The folded primaries extended past the tail and were black. After a short time the bird took off and flew upstream passing right in front of us, but still quite a distance out on the river. I could clearly see the diagnostic black underside of the primaries with just the outer one or two primaries showing white. The rest of the underwings were gray becoming paler near the body. The underside of its body, tail, and around the neck were unmarked white. The upperside of the wings showed the narrow white wedge on the outer primaries as well as the thin black trailing edge to the outer primaries that is also the pattern in the upper primaries of adult Bonaparte's Gulls. The tail was all white and the rest of the upperside of the gull was pale gray.

I took several photos of the Black-headed Gull while it was in flight. Even though the shots are distant, the dark underside of the outer primaries are distinctive.

I have seen many Black-headed Gulls in England and a few at Presque Isle State Park.

Jerry McWilliams

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus

Date of Sighting: 16 March 2008 to 26 March 2008

County : DAUPHIN

Location : MARYSVILLE

Observer(s): Ramsey Koury, Cameron Rutt, m.obs

Date of Submission: 2008

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

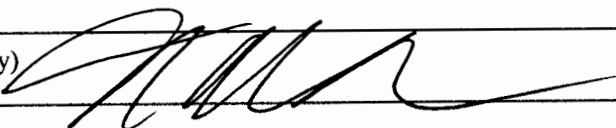
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
E. Witmer	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

8/24/08