



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 (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)**

Subspecies (if known): **presumed nominate, *C. r. ridibundus***

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS: One **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): **alternate adult**

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 19 March 2010 **TIME:** 3:30 – 4:30 PM EDT

LOCATION (city, borough, township): **Marysville (Rye Twp.), Perry Co. – Susquehanna River, (Middle Paxton Twp.), Dauphin Co.**

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road): **Heritage Park River Access/Marysville Boat Launch off S. Main St.**

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name: Devin Bosler

Address: 2074 Jarvis Road

City: Lancaster **State:** PA **ZIP:** 17601

e-mail (optional): devinbosler@gmail.com **phone (optional):** (717) 203-1795

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

Justin Bosler, *Ramsay Koury (originally discovered bird on 14 March 2010)

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details): **Open freshwater of Susquehanna River.**

DISTANCE TO BIRD: ca. 150-200 meters

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): **Sunny with clear sky. Optimal viewing conditions with higher sun angle and backlighting/glare not a factor.**

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: Zeiss Victory FL 8x42, Kowa TSN 881 Angled 88mm scope w/ 20-60x optical zoom, Canon Powershot SD1100 IS digital camera

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):

Medium-sized dark-hooded (or masked) gull. Pale gray upperparts, bold white leading wedge on upperwings, dark brown partial hood, white postocular crescents. Black primary tips and black undersides to middle primaries contrasting with leading white wedge. Slender dark red bill. Dark reddish legs and feet. Buoyant, tern-like flight style.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing): **Foraging mid-river on apparent larval hatch, loosely associating with flock of 50-75 Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). Cyclic feeding pattern, flying upriver several hundred meters then floating downriver before starting over again.**

VOCALIZATIONS: Silent.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph Yes Video recording Audio recording Drawing

Photographer/recorder/illustrator: Devin Bosler (digiscoped photos attached)

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others):

DISCUSSION – Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: **Full alternate plumage in March eliminates later-molting Bonaparte's Gull (*C. philadelphia*). Adult BOGU don't attain alternate plumage until Apr-May. No other similar masked or hooded gulls from N.A.**

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES: Previous experience with individuals in basic or first-cycle plumage in MA.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ? (why or why not): **Yes, 100% positive.**

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation: **none**

After observation: ***Gulls of the Americas* (Howell and Dunn 2007)**

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 30 March 2010

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER: Devin Bosler

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus

Date of Sighting: 14 March 2010 to 19 March 2010

County : PERRY/DAUPHIN

Location : MARYSVILLE

Observer(s): Ramsay Koury, multiple observers

Date of Submission: 2010

Submitted by: Devin Bosler

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	
R. Wiltraut	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
G. Rust D. Derans	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/10/10