

Submission Date	2013-04-15 21:34:44
Observer's Name	Geoff Malosh
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Phone	412-735-3128
Observer's Address	Street Address: 450 Amherst Avenue City: Moon Township State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15108 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Shannon Thompson while I was present, at least a dozen others before and after.
Species (Common Name)	Black-headed Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Chroicocephalus ridibundus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult, basic plumage
Observation Date and Time	12-02-2012 12:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S12210697
County	Butler
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Lake Arthur
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Moraine S.P. south shore day use area
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.941888,-80.086003
Habitat	Grass lawn next to Lake Arthur
Distance to bird	100 feet
Viewing conditions	Cloudy but plenty of light, no rain, little wind.
Optical equipment used	Leica Ultravid 10x42 binocular, Canon 1D Mark IV + 500mm f/4 + teleconverters
Description	This report is being submitted after the fact. The description below is copied directly from the eBird checklist I entered on the day of the sighting: ---

Adult bird seen on the grass at the south shore day use area with ring-billed gulls. Slightly larger than Bonaparte's but not quite as large as Ring-billed. Red bill with dusky tip, red legs, clean light gray on the mantle and wing coverts, clean white underneath. Dark spot behind the eye extended as a faded dusky line toward the top of the head, parallel to another similarly faded "line" extending above the eye toward the top of the head. Dark primary tips on the folded wing with small white spots (primary tips). The bird preened a few times revealing dark undersides on the primaries, and was also seen in flight once during which the primaries could be seen to be dark on the underside while the rest of the underwing was light-colored. The upperwing in flight was similar to adult Bonaparte's Gull (white outer primaries with a black trailing edge). Photographed, pictures available. This is the fourth time an adult Black-headed Gull has been seen in this precise location. I have seen all four of these birds. The previous records were 5 to 28 Dec 1998, 27 Nov to 10 Dec 2008, and 9 Dec 2011 to 1 Jan 2012. It seems reasonable to conclude that this is the same bird as was here in 2011 and probably 2008 as well. If it were the same bird in all four cases, the present bird would be at least 15 years old now, as the bird in 1998 was an adult.

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

Resting and preening. See description above.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Red bill and legs, dark primaries on the underside eliminate Little Gull, Bonaparte's Gull. Light mantle eliminates Laughing and Franklin's Gulls.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[Gull BlackHeaded LakeArthurPA 20121202 1D4 0 47C0590M.jpg](#)
[Gull BlackHeaded LakeArthurPA 20121202 1D4 0 47C0594M.jpg](#)
[Gull BlackHeaded LakeArthurPA 20121202 1D4 0 47C0606M.jpg](#)

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