

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2017-01-03 09:34:38
Observer's Name	Christhoper Lituma
E-mail	cmlituma@yahoo.com
Phone	215-378-2747
Observer's Address	9 Highline Pass Morgantown WV 26508 United States
Species (Common Name)	black-headed gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Larus ridibundus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	I think this was a first winter bird. Bright orange legs, with an orangish bill with a black tip. Also, some brown washing in the wings and a black terminal band on the tail in flight. Obvious single black dot behind the eye.
Observation Date and Time	12-28-2016 11:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S33246573
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Falls Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Falls Township Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	N 40.1624346; W -74.8060959
Habitat	Lake shore
Distance to bird	20 Feet
Viewing conditions	Clear Day, slgith wind blowing
Optical equipment used	Nikon Monarch, 10x42
Description	Gull slightly smaller than ring-billed gulls. Orange-reddish droopy bill with a black tip, and bright orange legs. Obvious black spot behind eye. I think it was a first winter individual because it a some tan-brownish coloration on the wings. I saw it in flight, in the water, and on the shore. I had just seen the black-headed gull at john Heinz, so I had an excellent mental image of what the gull should look like.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was mostly loafing among ring-billed gulls. Loafing in the water and on the shore line.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Eliminated bonaparte's due to larger size, orange legs, and larger orangish bill.

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

I don't carry a camera when I bird, so these cell phone images are the best I have. I'll understand if the committee chooses not to accept it, but I am certain it was a black-headed gull (after very careful and cautious consideration and with excellent lighting and close looks). The bird of interest in the photos is the lone bird, in the background, standing on a rock (back and right of center in the photos).

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

I'll understand if the committee chooses not to accept it, but I am certain it was a black-headed gull (after very careful and cautious consideration and with excellent lighting and close looks). 100% positive especially because I had seen a black-headed gull earlier that day, and I was using my Sibley's guide to help with identification at the time of the sighting.

During

The Sibley guide to Birds 2nd Edition; Audubon Bird App.

After

National Geographic Field Guide

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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