

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-11-16 15:43:14
Observer's Name	Seth Ausubel
E-mail	birdherpbug@gmail.com
Phone	917-842-4002
Observer's Address	49 Sentinel Rd. Washington Crossing PA 18977 United States
Species (Common Name)	Black-headed Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Chroicocephalus ridibundus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Hatch year. First-winter plumage with some juvenile plumage remaining. Sex unknown.
Observation Date and Time	11-12-2018 11:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49887112
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Washington Crossing
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Sod Field on PA 32 at the David Library of the American Revolution
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.304958, -74.884710
Habitat	Sod field with puddles and areas recently tilled.
Distance to bird	As close as 50 feet
Viewing conditions	Excellent. Partly cloudy.
Optical equipment used	Swarovski HD-80 spotting scope

Description	Bird in moult between juvenile and first winter plumage. With Ring-billed Gulls. Much smaller and generally similar to Bonaparte's Gull. Bill pink-orange with black tip. Stockier and slightly larger than Bonaparte's. Legs also pink-orange, slightly more orange than bill. Large brownish smudge on nape. Head white with dark around eye and spot behind eye. Mantle pale gray with some remaining brown juvenile feathers. Wing coverts gray with dark brown scaling. Tertials dark brown with white edges, worn. Folded primaries all black. In flight wings showed dark M pattern above, with black across base of wing coverts and black edges of outer primaries. Undersides of primaries dark in flight. Tail white with distinct black tip.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Feeding in sod field with Ring-billed Gulls and occasionally flying around. Observed and photographed pulling earthworms from the ground. Flew off heading downstream along the Delaware River at 12:25 p.m., moments after about half of the 40 Ring-billed Gulls present flew off. Viewed for almost a full hour before it flew off.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Bonaparte's Gull is similar, but slightly smaller and more petite, with an all-black bill and white undersides of flight feathers.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	One of the photos shows the bird pulling an earthworm from the ground. Another shows a size comparison with Ring-billed Gull.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes. No other small gull has a pink to orange bill with a black tip. I have seen many Black-headed Gulls, mostly in New York and also in Europe.
During	None
After	Sibley Guide to Birds
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[Black-headed Gull imm David Library WaCro 18-11-12_01.jpg](#)



[Black-headed Gull imm David Library WaCro 18-11-12_04.jpg](#)



[Black-headed Gull imm David Library WaCro 18-11-12_05.jpg](#)



[Black-headed Gull imm David Library WaCro 18-11-12_07.jpg](#)

Click to edit

PORC-webform00054