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9/8/96

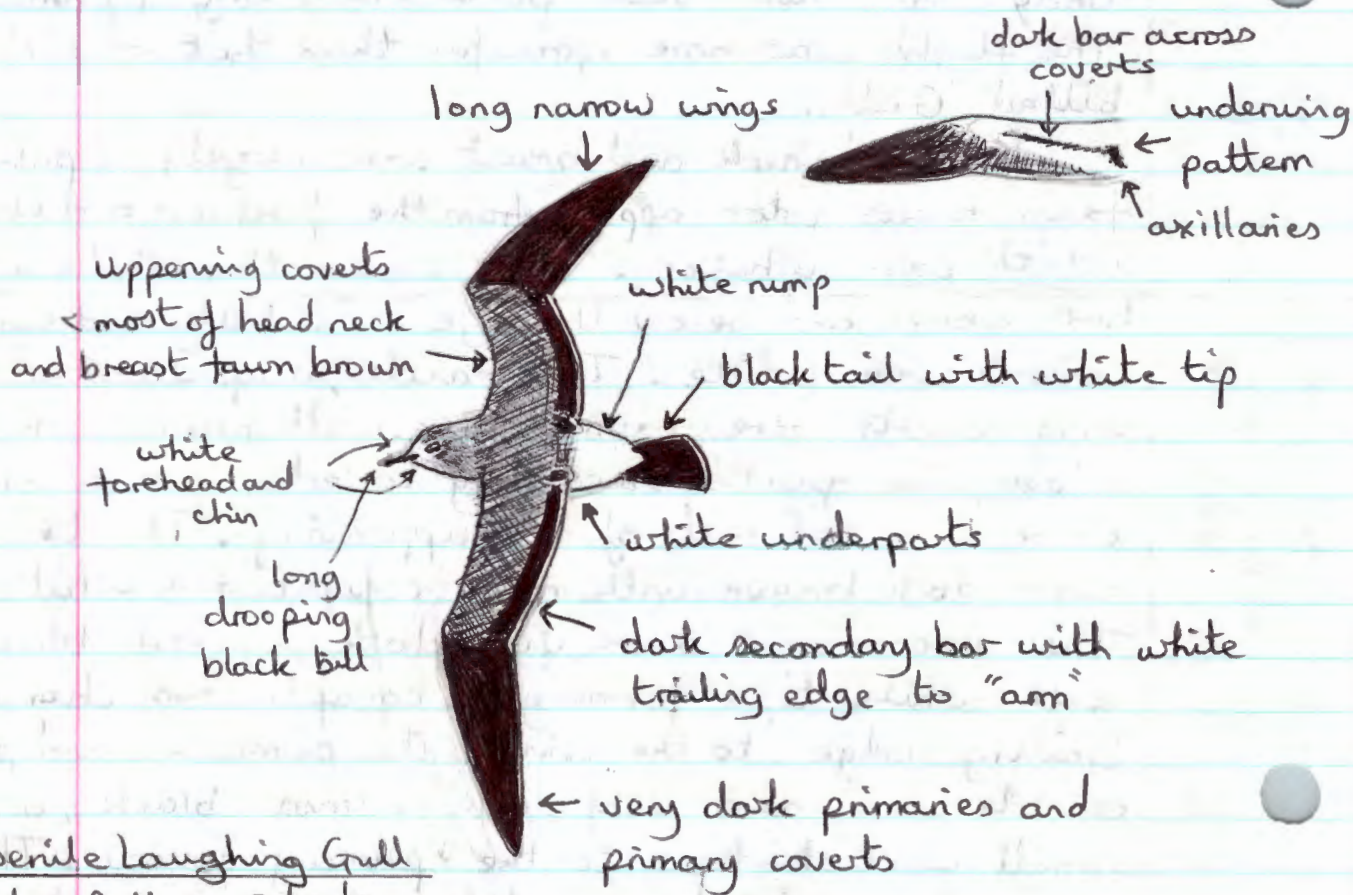
FIRST LAUGHING GULL RECORD FOR BUTLER COUNTY  
Ed Kwater.

On Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> 1996, while searching for storm-driven seabirds at Lake Arthur (Morraine State Park, Butler County) I found a juvenile Laughing Gull, Larus atricilla, the first county record. The bird was observed between 9.00 and 9.20 a.m. in the day-use area on the south shore and between 6.30 and 7.30 p.m. off the Crescent Bay boat launch. It was in extremely fresh plumage without any gray basic feathers whatsoever. The bird was slightly smaller and noticeably slimmer than the accompanying Ring-billed Gulls, L. delawarensis. The wings were slightly narrower but much longer in proportion to the body, the "hand" being particularly long (primaries). The flight was more graceful than that of a Ring-billed Gull.

The head, neck and breast were largely a mid-tone fawn brown color apart from the forehead and chin which were whiter. There was a thin white eyelet both above and below the eye. The belly and undertail coverts were white. The mantle, scapulars and upper-wing coverts were fawn brown with narrow whitish edges. The greater secondary coverts were a grayer color than the rest of the upperwing. The tertials were dark brown with more conspicuous white edges. The secondaries were very dark, almost black with white tips forming a conspicuous thin white trailing edge to the wing. The primaries and primary coverts were also very dark, almost black, with small whitish tips to the primary coverts. The rump and uppertail were white, contrasting sharply

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with the rest of the upperparts. The tail was black with a conspicuous white tip. The underwings were largely dark apart from the underwing coverts which were a very pale fawn brown with a thin dark brown bar across them which joined up with dark brown axillaries. The bill was relatively long, black and held at a downward angle in flight. The bird was observed at ranges of 40 yards to 300 yards, mainly in flight but poorly several times on the water at great range when it looked very brown. The light was excellent during the observation period. Optical equipment used was a x10 binocular and x30 spotting scope. I have studied many thousands of Laughing Gulls in all plumages in PA; NY; NJ; VA; NC; FL and Britain (2).



Juvenile Laughing Gull  
Lake Arthur 9/8/96

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)

Date of Sighting: 8 September 1996 to 8 September 1996

Location: MORaine STATE PARK

County: BUTLER

Observer(s): Ed Kwater

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Ed Kwater

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

8-16-97