

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
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

337-01-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Laughing Gull Larus atricilla
Subspecies (if known) _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 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): 1st winter

DATE OF OBSERVATION 9/19/03 TIME 12:00 pm.

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Quemahoning Township

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Quemahoning Reservoir at the south end near the green bridge.

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Ross Gallardy
Address 306 Kim Lane
City Windber State PA ZIP 15963
e-mail (optional) RossGallardy@aol.com phone (optional) (814) 366-5957

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

Just Payne was about 200 yards further up the lake than me and saw 3 birds of which two were Laughing Gulls.

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Flying over the lake.

DISTANCE TO BIRD From 50-150 yards

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Cloudy a break between rain. During Hurricane Isabel.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Celestron Noble PC 10x50 Binoculars

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): I first saw the Laughing Gull from the car when it was flying through a group of about 10 Forster's Terns without even putting my binoculars on it I could tell it was a gull by size and shape. When I got the binoculars on it I quickly realized it was a Laughing Gull. The end of its tail was a broad black band. The coverts of the bird were brown. The area behind the eye was dark white the crown, nape, and throat were white. The bill was black in color. The breast of the gull was grey and the rest of the under area was white.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) The whole time I saw the bird it was flying. The total time I saw it was about 5 minutes. While I saw the gull it flew around with the terns and then headed off over the trees.

VOCALIZATIONS

No vocalization was heard.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) I eliminated all the terns by the size and shape of the gull. I then eliminated Franklin's gull by the amount of brown in the wings, the broad black tail band, and the gray colored breast.

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

Jeff Payne saw at least 2 Laughing Gulls heading in my direction from further up the lake about 5 minutes before I saw the one I did. There could have been another one but I was too busy paying attention to the one I saw. I almost expected to see a Laughing gull some time during the day because of Hurricane Isabel. There were numerous sightings of Laughing Gulls throughout the day in the state of PA. Some as close as Bedford County.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

I have had alot of experience with laughing gulls. I have seen them many, many times while at the beach. I also have experience with Franklin's gull which I have see when birding in AZ and UT.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) I am positive that the bird I saw was a Laughing Gull. Everything about the bird pointed to laughing gull. The size of it also seemed right.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation None

After observation Sibley's guide to birds

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 9/25/03

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Ross P. Sallouby

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)

Date of Sighting: 19 September 2003 to 19 September 2003

Location: QUENAHONING RESERVOIR

County : SOMERSET

Observer(s): Ross Gallardy, Jeff Payne

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Ross Gallardy

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead R. Witmer			X					
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 710

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

9/16/04