



338-01-1990

FRANKLIN'S GULL IN LANCASTER COUNTY

On Saturday, October 6, 1990, a first-winter-plumaged Franklin's Gull was observed on the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, by Tom Garner, Eric Witmer, and five other observers. The bird was seen briefly but was relocated the following morning (October 7, 1990) and was closely studied and photographed (up to about 100') by Garner, Witmer, Jerry Book, and Jan Witmer.

The bird was an obvious first-winter Laughing/Franklin's type Gull. It was considerably smaller than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls. At rest, the back was light gray with brownish-tinged wing coverts and even darker primaries. The entire underparts were white. The head was small and rounded with the forehead being white and the upper nape dark, wrapping around to the eyes, giving a hooded appearance. The eyes were dark with broad, white eye crescents. The bill was black and thinner than that of a Laughing Gull and not thicker at the end.

In flight, the underwings were light with the primaries being darker. From above, the wings were gray with brownish edges leading to darker primaries, with a broad white trailing edge ending at the beginning of the primaries. The tail was light with a fairly broad, dark subterminal band. The entire outer tail feather(s) were white. The legs were dark and shorter than Laughing Gull's.

The bird was observed irregularly between October 7-12 from the shore of the Susquehanna River and was last seen on the flats on October 13, 1990, by Book.

Interestingly, an imm. Franklin's Gull was reported by Book and Robert M. Schutsky on September 15, 1990, at the same location. Constant searching did not turn up the bird until October 6, when a similar-plumaged gull appeared, raising suspicions as to how many Franklin's Gulls were in the area.

This is the second Lancaster County record. The first was also on the flats and observed by Ted Hake, et al, on September 20, 1959. Several unconfirmed records exist since that time.

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Nov 24, 1990
J. Garner

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Franklin's Gull**

Date of Sighting: **October 6, 1990**

Observer(s): **Eric Witmer**

Date of Submission: **1990**

Submitted by: **Eric Witmer**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater	X						
B. Haas	X						
F. Haas	X						
R. Leberman	X						
G. McWilliams	X						
S. Santner	X						
P. Schwalbe	X						
TOTALS	7						
DECISION	X						

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Bu Haas

Date:

3-24-91