

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

8 February 2001

John Salvetti
519 E. Crawford St.
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Dear John,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Franklin's Gulls near Carrolltown on 12 May 1997. After careful review, the committee regrets that it cannot accept this record. Three committee members considered the record acceptable, but four others believed that the details of the description did not adequately eliminate other species that would have black heads in the spring, such as Laughing and Black-headed. The rosy breast tint did point to Franklin's, but Grant cautioned in *Gulls: a Guide to Identification*, "Exceptionally, some individuals of normally non-pink or slightly pink species (such as Black-headed Gull) may be strongly pink-toned."

The committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean that the bird was not the species reported, but rather that the committee believes the documentation submitted does not support the identification conclusively.

We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rarities you may find in the future.

Finally, the committee apologizes for the unacceptably long delay before all members were able to vote on the record. Circumstances beyond our control caused the problem, and we believe that we are back on a timely track.

Sincerely,

For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

P.S. Beginning this year observers will receive postcards acknowledging that the committee has received their documentation. In addition, whereas observers formerly were notified only when reports were not accepted (in disappointing or irritating letters like this one), they will now receive cards announcing that their records *have* been accepted.

Record #338-02-1997

RARE SPECIES REPORT

338-02-1997

SPECIES: Franklin's Gull		NUMBER SEEN: Two
SIGHTING DATE: 5-12-97		SIGHTING TIME: 1:25 PM
LOCATION:	COUNTY & STATE: Cambria County, PA. DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: 2 MI. East of Carrolltown on SR4015 DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE:	
HABITAT: Open plowed field		
SIGHTING CONDITIONS:	LIGHTING: Partly Cloudy - lighting excellent DISTANCE: 150 yards to 40 yards EQUIP. USED: Kowa TSN824 20-60 Zoom Scope - Swarovski 10x42 binoculars LENGTH OF SIGHTING: Thirty Minutes. Remained in field when I left area.	
DESCRIPTION:	VOICE: SIZE: Feeding in recently plowed field with ± 200 ring bill gulls. PLUMAGE: Appeared to be somewhat smaller than ring bills. Both gulls were in breeding plumage. Rosy breast became apparent when they approached to within 40 yards. Both gulls had black heads & reddish legs. ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): Rosy colored Breeding plumage - black heads, reddish legs BEHAVIOR: Feeding in field. Both separated from the ring bill flock and approached to within 40 yards while feeding. Still feeding when I left area.	
FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: This was my fifth observation of a Franklin's Gull, others were in PA, Montana, Salton Sea in California and at Bellview Colorado.		
COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: Appeared to be slightly smaller when observed with ring billed gulls.		
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? No IF SO, BY WHO?		
Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? No		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space):		
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: John Salvetti		
ADDRESS: 519 E. Crawford St. Ebensburg, PA. 15931		PHONE #: 814-472-9298
SIGNATURE: John Salvetti	DATE: 9-30-97	

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round Two

Species: Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*)

Date of Sighting: 12 May 1997 to 12 May 1997

Location: CARROLLTOWN

County: CAMBRIA

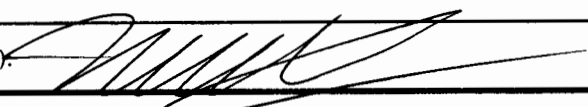
Observer(s): John Salvetti

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: John Salvetti

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead					X			
F. Haas			X					
R. Ickes					X			
P. Hess					X			
D. Couchman					X			
J. McWilliams				X				
P. Schwalbe					X			
TOTALS			1	1	5			
DECISION					X			

Comments: 1/6/0

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 1/18/01