



Franklin's Gull

May 24, 2005

Honeybrook Township, Chester Co., PA

I received a telephone call that this bird was a Struble Lake. I arrived at the lake but the bird was not there. I then drove around the nearby farmlands and came across the gull feeding in a field with a small number of Ring-billed Gulls. It was observed both on the ground and feeding through a 30x scope from about 200yds for about 10 minutes.

Description: a dark backed, dark hooded gull slightly smaller than a Laughing Gull. The hood appeared black and the mantle was a dark gray. The underparts were white. The wings were dark gray with white tips to the primaries. The bill was red. There were distinct large white eye crescents visible even at this distance. In flight, the underwings were a pale white to gray.

Separation from other dark-hooded gulls: The large size eliminates Little and Bonaparte's Gulls. The dark mantle color and wing pattern would seem to eliminate Black-headed Gull. Laughing Gull would be the most likely confusion species. The wide-eye crescents much brighter than those found on Laughing Gulls and the white tips to the primaries I think should eliminate Laughing Gull. The pale white-gray underwings with white primary tips is also better for Franklin's than the dark underwing tips of a Laughing Gull.

Experience with species – I have seen breeding plumage Franklin's Gulls only a few times in TX and CO. I have seen hundreds or thousands of breeding plumaged Laughing Gulls but they always appeared darker backed with no white to the primary tips.

Report made from noted made both during and after the sighting.

Nick Pulcinella
613 Howard Road
West Chester, PA 19380

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Franklin's Gull (Larus pipixcan)

Date of Sighting: 24 May 2004 to 24 May 2004

Location: STRUBLE LAKE AND HONEYBROOK TOWNSHIP

County : CHESTER

Observer(s): Larry Lewis, Nick Pulcinella, Rick Wiltraut.

Date of Submission: 2004

Submitted by: Nick Pulcinella, Rick Wiltraut

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

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

Comments:

7/0

Signature (Secretary)

Date:

06/30/05