

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2015-11-14 21:45:10
Observer's Name	Kurt Schwarz
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Phone	443-538-2370
Observer's Address	Street Address: 9045 Dunloggin Ct. City: Ellicott City State / Province: MD Postal / Zip Code: 21042 Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Franklin's Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Leucophaeus pipixcan
Number of individuals	4
Observation Date and Time	11-13-2015 12:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25814273
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	New Britain
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Peace Valley Park
Habitat	Artificial Lake
Distance to bird	Perhaps 1/10th mile
Viewing conditions	Partly cloudy day, good light but fortunately no glare due to clouds.
Optical equipment used	Swarovski ATX Scope, 25-60X zoom, though viewing largely at 25X
Description	Small gulls, slightly larger than nearby Bonaparte's Gulls. Black at eye extending to back or crown area. Mantle darker than Bonaparte's. Small white spots in primaries.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Part of mixed flock of gulls, mostly Lesser Black-backed. Loosely associating with circa 11 Bonaparte's Gulls.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Clearly a hooded gull. The Bonaparte's had white heads with black ear patch. Black on head was much more extensive, and more so than would be expected on Laughing Gull. Size near that of Bonaparte's also excludes Laughing Gull. The white spots in primaries likewise exclude Laughing Gull.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

I am not adept at moving files between my iPhone and my mother's computer. I can submit other photos by e-mail if desired. I only got three in any frame, but I distinctly counted four in my first sweep of the flock, though I had not fully realized what I was looking at at the time. I have not as yet analyzed ages, etc. of the birds and lack means to do so as I am away from home.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes

During

None

After

Big Sibley, 2nd edition

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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