

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-06-23 21:51:23
Observer's Name	Linda Greble
E-mail	lindagreble@yahoo.com
Phone	814-525-8994
Observer's Address	2806 Carpenters Park Rd. Davidsville PA 15928 United States
Names of additional observers	Jeff Payne saw the bird first earlier that day, numerous people saw it and reported it to eBird along with photographs on subsequent days.
Species (Common Name)	Franklin's Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	First summer bird.
Observation Date and Time	06-12-2018 7:50 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S46564805
County	Somerset
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Somerset borough
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Lake Somerset
GPS coordinates of sighting	(40.0260494,-79.0640977)
Habitat	Lake
Distance to bird	The closest was when it flew directly over my head twice, at approx 30-40 feet. Circled around very close also.
Viewing conditions	Early evening, still able to see bird clearly, but some of the photographs make plumage look darker under its wings because the bird was between me and the setting sun
Optical equipment used	Nikon Monarch M511, 10x42; Camera: Nikon Coolpix P900

Description

First summer bird, large white areas above and below eye, white spots on wing, less extensive black on underwing than Laughing would have, also appeared smaller than a Ring-billed would be, although there were no other gulls there at that time to compare it to.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Flew from N end of lake , past large pines on Eastern side of lake. Stopped for a little while on eastern shore at waters edge, near osprey platform. Then it took to flight again and flew in front of boat launch, where I was. This was my best view of bird as the sun was behind me and it flew about 50 feet in front of me just a little above eye level. Then it flew towards the South and circled above my area twice before returning to north shore area. It did not reappear as long as I as there.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Smaller than a ring-bill gull, larger white arcs above and below eye, white spots on wing. Also noticed in pics the bill seemed smaller than a ring-billed.

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

Yes. 1: It was first seen and identified as a Franklins by Jeff Payne. 2: I saw it closely and was able to see the difference in eye markings, and wing markings. 3: Comparing the photos I took to 7 different field guides when I returned home clinched the feeling that I'm positive it's a Franklin's Gull

During

Sibley online app, Crossley Guide (book)

After

Online: Cornell's All About Birds website, Books: Sibleys(large book), Peterson's Eastern US, Kaufman's , National Geographic

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-06-22 09:45:55
Observer's Name	Jeff Payne
E-mail	paynemt@gmail.com
Phone	8142675718
Observer's Address	9755 Glades Pike Berlin Pennsylvania 15530 United States
Names of additional observers	Jeff Payne,D.V.M.
Species (Common Name)	Franklin's Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Leucophaeus pipixcan
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	First summer
Observation Date and Time	06-12-2018 3:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	S46512253
County	Somerset
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Somerset Boro
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Somerset Lake,IBA
GPS coordinates of sighting	40 01'41.7 N 7903'43.5W
Habitat	muddy edge of drawn down lake shore
Distance to bird	First saw over half mile away, eventually got to within 75 yards
Viewing conditions	overcast
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 10 x 40 binocs, Swarovski 65mm scope

Description	Medium sized gull with dark gray back, striking white broken eye lashes, partial dark hood on caudal side of head with white feathers on forehead and around base of bill and chin, Dark gray of back yielded to a white band just cranial to dark primary tips-these tips were interrupted by one or two white spots depending on position of wings. Bill and legs appear dark. Did not vocalize.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was walking and picking at muddy edge of lake, fairly active as moved about 300-400 yards while I was watching for about 45 minutes. Did not fly while I observed but Linda Greble took flying pictures later that evening (hopefully she will send report too).
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Main differential was Laughing Gull (which has appeared at least once at SL) but partial hood with white chin, bolder eyelashes and especially white spots on primaries consistent with FRGU. Although subjective the bird appeared small and light framed. One concern I had at first was the bill looked a little long but feel that impression is due to the whitish feathers at base of bill making bill appear longer.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	Weather had been very unsettled prior two days with extensive rain and low cloud ceiling. Went to check SL at this normally unexciting, non-migratory period of mid-June because bad weather can bring surprises there. First saw a basic plumaged Common Loon which was unexpected but has summer precedent more commonly on Quemahoning Reservoir in summer. Saw a gull on bank of extreme north end of diminished lake pool (from draw down) which through scope at 1/2 mile looked a little darker on back than expected Ring-billed Gull. Went to north end and out onto dry lakebed to see through vegetation and refound gull. Viewed and digiscoped and put bird on local south central PA RBA. Have had Franklin's Gull at SL two other times with a single on April 22, 2001 and several in small flock May 30,2008. Bird was seen for at least a week after initial sighting by many observers and reported to eBird. I did not see on brief visits to lake 6/20 and 21.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes.. Feel partial hood, eye lashes and primary spots in combination rule out LAGU.
During	Sibleys on phone
After	Crossley
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph Video

Upload images, audio, video
or drawings



[Franklin's Gull Picture.JPG](#)
[Franklin's Gull video.MOV](#)

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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-07-28 10:32:02
Observer's Name	Glenn Koppel
E-mail	macatilly@gmail.com
Phone	703-203-3362
Observer's Address	122 Linsdale Drive Butler PA 16001 United States
Names of additional observers	Mary Alice Koeneke
Species (Common Name)	Franklin's Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Chroicocephalus philadelphia
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult non breeding
Observation Date and Time	06-16-2018 2:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S46666950
County	Somerset
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Somerset
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Lake Somerset
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.0282593,-79.0620728
Habitat	Lake/Water
Distance to bird	200-700 yards
Viewing conditions	clear, sunny
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 8.5x42 binoculars, Swarovski 65mm HD scopes, one with 20-60x, one with 25-50x

Description

Seen from 1430-1500. Split white eye ring. Smudgy white line did not go to back of head. Solid dark brown head, smudging to brownish flecks in white at front of head. In good light, tip of small dark bill red. Flew up for about 1 minute, white edge on back of primaries when folded at rest on water formed white crescent. Back all slate gray. Legs dark in flight, wings all white. Appeared very slight pinkish on breast when on water (reflection?), Feeding on insects on water surface. Adult non-breeding.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

sitting and feeding on water, flying

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Split white eye ring. Smudgy white line did not go to back of head. Solid dark brown head, smudging to brownish flecks in white at front of head. In good light, tip of small dark bill red. Back all slate gray. Legs dark in flight, wings all white. Appeared very slight pinkish on breast when on water

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

Notes, notes in picture taken at time of observation.

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

Yes, have seen Franklin's in other states also, saw this bird well and for a good amount of time

During

Sibley's Field Guide, Peterson Field Guide, Nat. Geo. Field Guide

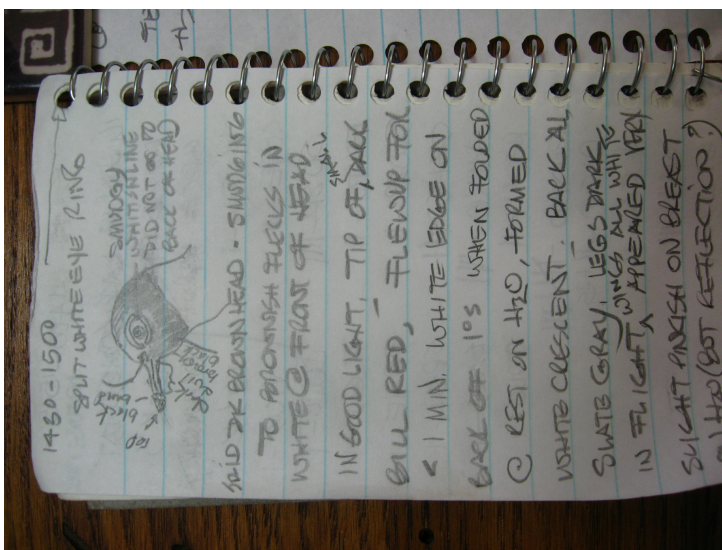
After

Peterson Gulls of North America

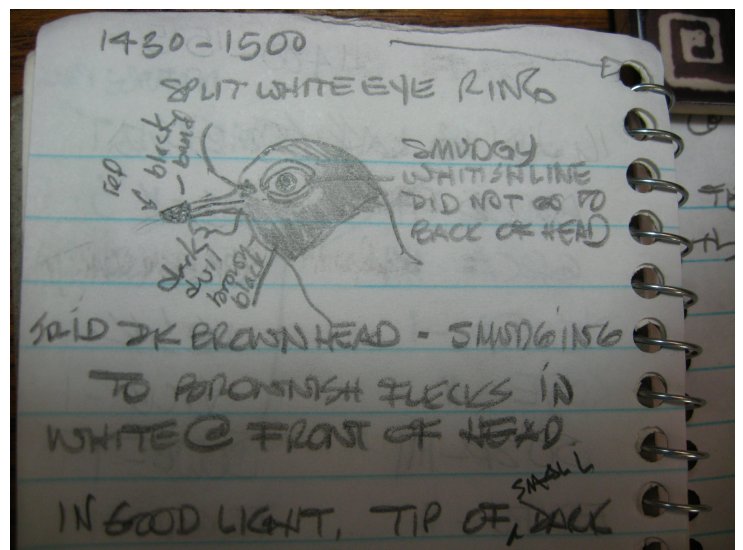
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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[IMG_1076.JPG](#)



[franklin'sgull02.jpg](#)



[franklin'sgull05.jpg](#)



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