

PA Rare Bird Report

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| Submission Date | 2018-11-15 09:29:22 |
| Observer's Name | August Mirabella |
| E-mail | augustmirabella@aol.com |
| Phone | 2153680594 |
| Observer's Address | 1443 Wheaton Lane North Wales PA 19454 United States |
| Names of additional observers | Arrived after I found it: Devich Farbotnik, Tom Fahie, Ian Baldock, Ken Rieker, Richard Smith, Bob McGarry |
| Species (Common Name) | Franklin's Gull |
| Species (Scientific Name) | Leucophaeus pipixcan |
| Number of individuals | 1 |
| Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known) | 1st winter plumage |
| Observation Date and Time | 11-03-2018 9:00 AM |
| Did you submit this sighting to eBird? | Yes |
| Link to eBird checklist | https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49656046 |
| County | Bucks |
| Location (City, Borough, Township) | New Britain Twp. |
| Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road) | Peace Valley Park |
| GPS coordinates of sighting | 40.326142, -75.189400 |
| Habitat | Lake |
| Distance to bird | Closest maybe 150-200 ft. |
| Viewing conditions | Mostly sunny with periods of clouds. Choppy waves due to wind. Lots of sun glare until sun moved toward southwest |
| Optical equipment used | Leica APO77 scope, Zeiss 7X42 Bins. |

Description

1st winter - Narrow dark tail band & brownish wing coverts and tertials as in 1st winter. Typical amount of black on head for this species in winter compared to less for Laughing Gull. White eye-arcs. Black daintier bill than Laughing Gull. Very white underwings with black wing tips compared to more dark areas in 1st winter Laughing Gull. White spots on wing tips compared to none on 1st winter Laughing gull. Just slightly bigger than Bonaparte's it was with at times and significantly smaller than Ring-billed Gulls it was with. Pictures document most of the above except the under-wings, which we saw multiple times when it was preening or flying. The bird apparently left early afternoon and did not return by late afternoon.

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

Mainly just floating in the choppy water. Occasionally preening and flying.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

See above.

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

Confirmed by Devich Farbotnik who responded to my request for backup.

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

Yes, see pix and details above.

During

Some online pix

After

Sibley

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[Franklin's Gull Peace Valley Pk. 11-3-2018 1.JPG](#)



[Franklin's Gull Peace Valley Pk. 11-3-2018 2.JPG](#)



[Franklin's Gull Peace Valley Pk. 11-3-2018 4.JPG](#)



[Franklin's Gull Peace Valley Pk. 11-3-2018 5.JPG](#)

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