

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-12-02 09:15:49
Observer's Name	Holly Merker
E-mail	hcybelle@gmail.com
Phone	6107334392
Observer's Address	520 Baintree Run Downingtown PA 19335 United States
Names of additional observers	Devich Farbotnik, Jim (don't know last name)
Species (Common Name)	Franklin's Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Leucophaeus pipixcan
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	adult in winter plumage
Observation Date and Time	10-07-2018 1:50 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49382727
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Tullytown
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Penn Warner Tract (Private Property)
GPS coordinates of sighting	40°09'03.1"N 74°46'44.4"W
Habitat	Within a half mile of the Delaware River, within the coastal plain of Pennsylvania- wetlands, and dredge-fill area
Distance to bird	150 yards; at times the bird was right overhead, approximately 50 feet above us
Viewing conditions	Clear
Optical equipment used	Zeiss Victory SFs 8x 42; Canon 7D Mark II w 100-400mm lens

Description	Slightly smaller than the 200+ LAGU it was associating with, and with a smaller bill, shorter wingspan, and bold dark primaries accented by white bordering, and a nice dark gray hood was present, which was not a full-on hood, but partial, and initially caught my eye in this flock as I scanned for possible Franklin's. Bold white eye arcs were present, but not stand-out, as they are in alternate plumage.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	First noticed this bird in a large group of Laughing Gulls who were hawking insects from the sky above the wetlands and ponds. Stayed with the group of LAGU, feeding. Pictures describe behavior.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Separated by nearby LAGU, its best confused similar species, by its dark hooding (partial), which at this point in the season, LAGU have lost due to their molt timing. Additionally, primary feather patterning was entirely different, and showed a very neat black pattern as if dipped in jet black ink, and then accentuated by white. White on primary tips evident, but not extensive. LAGU has a larger bill, smudgy underwing and upper-wing primary patterns, and is a little larger. Photos show direct comparison of the two.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	Timing is good for FRGU in PA.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes
During	Discussion with Devich Farbotnik.
After	Sibley Guide to Birds
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph
Upload images, audio, video or drawings	



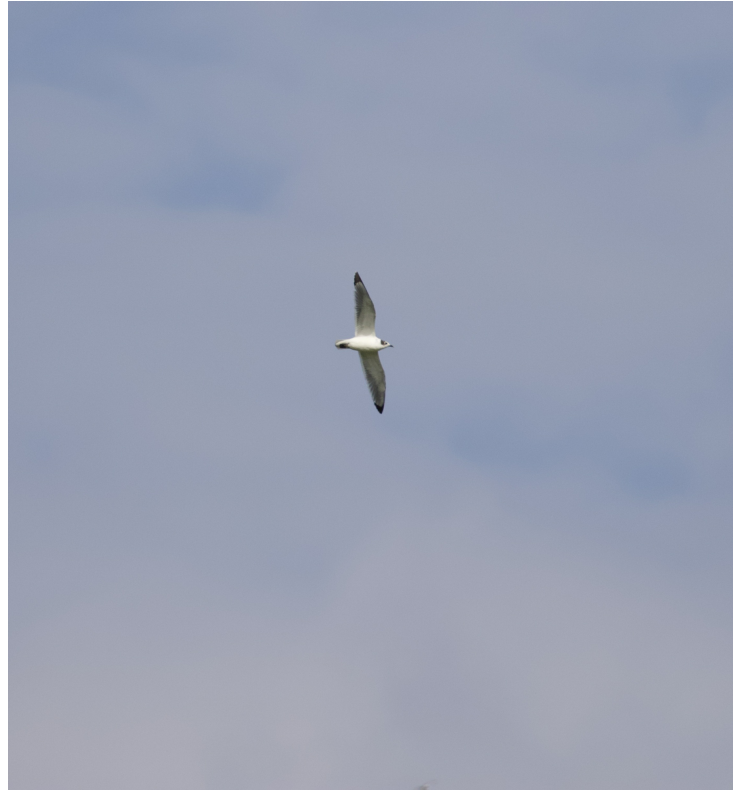
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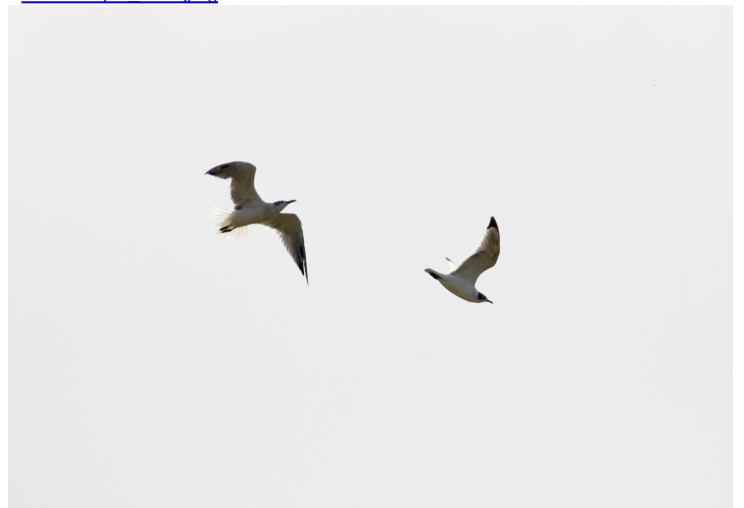
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