

October 8, 1997

Steve Farbotnik
Box 134
Revere, PA 18953

Dear Steve,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Mew Gull you saw at Nockamixon S.P. on 22 March 1996 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee was concerned that identification and separation of Mew and Ring-billed Gulls can at times be difficult and the description submitted did not contain enough detail regarding plumage for the committee to make a fair assessment.

This of course, does not mean the bird was not a Mew Gull, merely, that the record is not beyond reasonable doubt for acceptance

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella
Chairman

Record # 344-01-1996

344-01-1996

Possible Mew Gull - 1996

On March 22 at Lake Nockamixon Steve and Devich Farbotnick were scanning the 200 or so gulls there. Most were Ring-billed, some Herring, several Greater Black-backed and a Lesser Black-backed were seen. One gull, about 300 feet out, looked different. It was smaller than the Ring-billed gulls on either side of it. The head was smaller and rounder, the legs were yellow, and the bill was noticeably smaller and narrower from top to bottom. The upper mandible was a dull yellow. The lower mandible had an indistinct smudge (about 1/2" wide) slightly behind the tip.

We called Jason Horn, who came down and also saw the bird. Shortly after he arrived however the bird took off (the only one of the 200 gulls that flew) and it flew across the lake not to be seen again. As it took off Jason spotted large white windows at the wing tips. There was no terminal band on the tail. Jason felt quite sure that the bird was a Mew Gull (he had seen a number of these in California last winter).

Steve Farbotnik

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Mew Gull (Larus canus)**

Date of Sighting: **22 March 1996 to 22 March 1996**

Location: **NOCKAMIXON STATE PARK**

County: **BUCKS**

Observer(s): **Steve Farbotnik**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Steve Farbotnik**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella				X				
E. Kwater						X		
R. Ickes				X				
G. McWilliams						X		
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein						X		
TOTALS			2	2		3		
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

2-22-97