

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2018-01-31 09:01:23
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Geoff Malosh
<b>E-mail</b>	pomarine@earthlink.net
<b>Observer's Address</b>	450 Amherst Avenue Moon Township PA 15108 United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Jeff McDonald, Lauren Nagoda, et al.
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	California Gull
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Larus californicus
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Adult, basic plumage, unknown sex
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	12-03-2017 3:20 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S40897671">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S40897671</a>
<b>County</b>	Butler
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Moraine State Park (Lake Arthur)
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	South Shore day use area
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	40.941625, -80.087246
<b>Habitat</b>	Manicured lawn adjacent to Lake Arthur
<b>Distance to bird</b>	Within 30 feet
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Sunny, late afternoon, direct light
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Leica 10x42, Canon 1D Mark IV + 600mm f/4 + 1.4x and 2x extenders

<b>Description</b>	<p>The following description is taken verbatim from my eBird report which was created a few hours after the sighting:</p> <p>Bird was slightly larger than Ring-bills, smaller than a Herring. Mantle obviously a shade or two darker than ring-bills. Head and nape heavily marked with brown smudging, iris completely dark throughout, round headed imparting a somewhat delicate look. Bill larger than Ring-billed but not as strong as Herring, yellow/green with a complete black ring and red/orange spot on lower mandible behind the ring; some reddish also in front of the ring on lower mandible; tip of bill yellow/green. Pale yellow/green legs. Rather long-winged in aspect, with obvious apical spots on folded primaries. Extended wing, upperside: extensive black area at the end of the outer primaries, much more extensive than Ring-billed or Herring, large mirror on P10, substantial white trailing edge to secondaries. Extended wing: underside: same extensive black on outer primaries, distinctively gray bases to primaries and secondaries, much more contrasted than in Herring and Ring-billed. Tail completely white. All features diagnostic for basic plumage adult California Gull.</p>
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	<p>Also from the eBird report:</p> <p>First located in the flock at very close range around 3:20pm. I first noticed it as it faced away from us by its darker mantle compared to ring-bills and initially called "lesser black-backed" to the other 5 observers present; however when the bird showed its face, its dark iris and bill pattern were immediately obvious and diagnostic for California.</p> <p>First located in the flock at very close range around 3:20pm. I first noticed it as it faced away from us by its darker mantle compared to ring-bills and initially called "lesser black-backed" to the other 5 observers present; however when the bird showed its face, its dark iris and bill pattern were immediately obvious and diagnostic for California.</p>
<b>Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)</b>	<p>Bill pattern diagnostic for California. Smaller than Herring, and too dark-mantled. Not dark-mantled enough for Lesser Black-backed, although that was my immediate first impression of the bird before I could see something more than its mantle. Too large for Ring-billed, among other obvious differences.</p>
<b>Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:</b>	<p>The darkness of the mantle points to this bird being of the nominate subspecies <i>Larus californicus californicus</i>.</p>
<b>Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)</b>	<p>Yes</p>
<b>During</b>	<p>None</p>
<b>After</b>	<p>None</p>
<b>Supporting evidence (check all that apply)</b>	<p>Photograph</p>
<b>Upload images, audio, video or drawings</b>	



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