

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



[1A3C8292-58E9-4704-969C-F91884352C3C.jpeg](#)



[3E5AEC9D-E674-4123-9A21-A2692C4C723E.jpeg](#)



[A02565EF-A117-4274-8B9A-9AF70D844EA3.jpeg](#)

[Click to edit](#)

PORC-webform00511