

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-06-22 09:45:55
Observer's Name	Jeff Payne
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Phone	8142675718
Observer's Address	9755 Glades Pike Berlin Pennsylvania 15530 United States
Names of additional observers	Jeff Payne,D.V.M.
Species (Common Name)	Franklin's Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Leucophaeus pipixcan
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	First summer
Observation Date and Time	06-12-2018 3:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	S46512253
County	Somerset
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Somerset Boro
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Somerset Lake,IBA
GPS coordinates of sighting	40 01'41.7 N 7903'43.5W
Habitat	muddy edge of drawn down lake shore
Distance to bird	First saw over half mile away, eventually got to within 75 yards
Viewing conditions	overcast
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 10 x 40 binocs, Swarovski 65mm scope

Description	Medium sized gull with dark gray back, striking white broken eye lashes, partial dark hood on caudal side of head with white feathers on forehead and around base of bill and chin, Dark gray of back yielded to a white band just cranial to dark primary tips-these tips were interrupted by one or two white spots depending on position of wings. Bill and legs appear dark. Did not vocalize.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was walking and picking at muddy edge of lake, fairly active as moved about 300-400 yards while I was watching for about 45 minutes. Did not fly while I observed but Linda Greble took flying pictures later that evening (hopefully she will send report too).
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Main differential was Laughing Gull (which has appeared at least once at SL) but partial hood with white chin, bolder eyelashes and especially white spots on primaries consistent with FRGU. Although subjective the bird appeared small and light framed. One concern I had at first was the bill looked a little long but feel that impression is due to the whitish feathers at base of bill making bill appear longer.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	Weather had been very unsettled prior two days with extensive rain and low cloud ceiling. Went to check SL at this normally unexciting, non-migratory period of mid-June because bad weather can bring surprises there. First saw a basic plumaged Common Loon which was unexpected but has summer precedent more commonly on Quemahoning Reservoir in summer. Saw a gull on bank of extreme north end of diminished lake pool (from draw down) which through scope at 1/2 mile looked a little darker on back than expected Ring-billed Gull. Went to north end and out onto dry lakebed to see through vegetation and refound gull. Viewed and digiscoped and put bird on local south central PA RBA. Have had Franklin's Gull at SL two other times with a single on April 22, 2001 and several in small flock May 30,2008. Bird was seen for at least a week after initial sighting by many observers and reported to eBird. I did not see on brief visits to lake 6/20 and 21.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes.. Feel partial hood, eye lashes and primary spots in combination rule out LAGU.
During	Sibleys on phone
After	Crossley
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph Video

Upload images, audio, video
or drawings



[Franklin's Gull Picture.JPG](#)
[Franklin's Gull video.MOV](#)

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