

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-05-22 11:59:26
Observer's Name	Andy Keister
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Phone	5703373802
Observer's Address	110 Hawk Ridge Road Bloomsburg PA 17815 United States
Names of additional observers	Carl Engstrom, Paul Dennehy, Lauren Shaffer, Karol Pasquinelli
Species (Common Name)	Little Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Hydrocoloeus minutus
Number of individuals	3
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	2 adult, 1 immature
Observation Date and Time	04-16-2018 3:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44640926
County	Montour
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Anthony Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Montour Preserve
GPS coordinates of sighting	41.105406, -76.660914
Habitat	Lake
Distance to bird	1,000 feet
Viewing conditions	Overcast, rain
Optical equipment used	Nikon Bins, Vortex Razor HD scope

Description

Adult - dark hood with a little white right around the face/bill, short black bill, gray mantle, white wingtips. When flapping wings, dark underwing, rounded wing tips, white border around wings
Immature - bold M pattern on back of wings. It had a dark underwing and lighter wing tips.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Resting on the water with BOGU's. They never flew while I was there, but they did occasionally flap/stretch their wings. For the most part, it was only the LIGU that would flap/stretch their wings. I didn't see any of the BOGU do it.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

BOGU was considered. In fact, I initially assumed all of these gulls were BOGU until I saw one flap it's wings and then I immediately knew there were LIGU mixed in because I saw the dark underwing so I started to study them more closely. LIGU had dark underwings, a thin white border around the entire wing, and rounded wing tips. Also when at rest, the wing tips appeared white/gray versus the nearby BOGU that clearly had black wingtips. LIGU also appeared slightly smaller than the other gulls.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

While I was there I identified two adult LIGU and one immature LIGU. Later, Carl Engstrom visited the lake and ID'd three adult LIGU and one immature LIGU. He also had more BOGU than were present when I was at the lake, so I'm assuming that more gulls dropped in after I left.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Photos by others confirm the ID - see checklist for Karol Pasquinelli

During

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