

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-12-27 22:06:47
Observer's Name	Bobby Brown
E-mail	bobbybrown1011@gmail.com
Observer's Address	United States
Names of additional observers	Deb Brown
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-cycle
Observation Date and Time	10-04-2019 12:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/checklist/S60352365
County	Lycoming
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Armstrong Twp
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Route 15 Overlook / Montgomery Pike Scenic Overlook
GPS coordinates of sighting	41.226237, -76.937525
Habitat	Unofficial hawk watch overlooking river valley
Description	Initially viewed through scope, where the fairly distinct half-hood and eye arcs were noted immediately. Thin dark tail band, clean white underwings, pale inner primaries and lacking extensive black in the wings
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Seemingly following the West Branch Susquehanna River upstream (flying west). It dropped altitude after passing the hawk watch, heading down towards the Canfield Island area, but we were unable to relocate it along the river.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Pale inner primary windows and thin black tail band rule out Laughing Gull (one county record), which is the most similar species. Plumage and structure (especially upperside pattern) rule out Bonaparte's and Little Gull. Upperside pattern should also rule out the even rarer possibilities, such as Sabine's.

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

A small storm system from the west had gone through within the prior 24 hours, so this bird could have got caught up with that.

I posted the photos on the North American Gulls Facebook group, and the record was featured on Amar Ayyash's October 2019 notables:
<http://www.anythinglarus.com/2019/11/monthly-notables-october-2019.html>

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

Yes, the combination of features is perfect for first-cycle Franklin's and problematic for every other possible species; also consulted many skilled birders who all agreed with my ID based on my photos.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[frgu1.jpg](#)



[frgu10.jpg](#)

[frgu11.jpg](#)



[frgu2.jpg](#)



[frgu3.jpg](#)



[frgu4.jpg](#)



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