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 Deb Brown observers

Species (Common Name) Franklin's Gull

Species (Scientific Name) Leucophaeus pipixcan

Number of individuals

Age(s) and Plumage(s) and first-cycle Sex (if known)

Observation Date and Time 10-04-2019 12:00 PM

Did you submit this sighting Yes

to eBird?

Link to eBird checklist https://ebird.org/checklist/S60352365

County Lycoming

Location (City, Borough, Armstrong Twp

Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)

Township)

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 Seemingly following the West Branch Susquehanna River upstream (flying possible about what the bird 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. was doing)

Separation from similar Pale inner primary windows and thin black tail band rule out Laughing Gull (one species (How you eliminated county record), which is the most similar species. Plumage and structure (especially upperside pattern) rule out Bonaparte's and Little Gull. Upperside others) 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



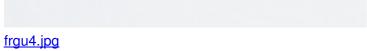


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