

### COMMENTS

The gull photographed in Roosevelt, Utah, in December 1992 is clearly an adult Laughing Gull (Larus atricilla) in relatively fresh winter-plumage.

The photographed gull has the dark mantle typical of an adult Laughing Gull, has a relatively long all dark bill typical of a winter-plumage adult Laughing Gull, has the somewhat indistinct head markings of a typical winter-plumage adult Laughing Gull, and has the dark legs of a typical winter-plumage adult Laughing Gull. The fresh primaries on an adult Laughing Gull are always tipped with white, but these white tips wear off as the year progresses, with virtually all adult Laughing Gulls in summer lacking these markings.

An adult Bonapart's Gull in December would have a noticeably paler mantle, would have a decidedly smaller and more delicate bill, would have a more prominent black ear-spot, would lack the dusky feathering over the eye and on the upper nape, and would have red colored legs.

A second-winter and adult Franklin's Gull (Larus pipixcan) would both have a somewhat paler mantle, would both have slightly shorter appearing bill, and would both have noticeably more black on the head extending across the nape and around the eyes, and emphasizing the white crescents above and below the eyes. However, the tail on a second-winter Franklin's Gull lacks black markings, the extent of black on the primaries would match that of the photographed gull, and would have the same white tips as those evident on the photographed gull.

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15 April 1994

Dec. 1992  
Gull + photos  
(#14-1992)

memorandum

3-21-94

ELLA,

HERE IS THE PHOTO I SPOKE OF ON  
THE PHONE THE OTHER NIGHT. THIS GULL WAS PHOTOGRAPHED  
IN A YARD IN RIVERVIEW IN DECEMBER 1992. CAN  
YOU IDENTIFY IT?

THANK YOU.

Kent Day

14-1992

Submitted by Keith Day  
Utah Div. of Wildlife Res.

as Bonaparte's Gull (Recirculated as Laughing Gull)

Dec 1992

Roosevelt, Utah



14-1992