



IOS IORC &lt;iorcommittee@gmail.com&gt;

## Re: IORC Documentation Submission

1 message

**P W** [REDACTED]  
To: IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Sun, Feb 7, 2021 at 1:53 PM

Hi Geoff:

You are correct about the error. The sighting was 1-1-2021.

Peter Weber

Get [BlueMail](#) for Windows

IORC wrote:

Dear Peter:

Thank you for submitting documentation of your Franklin's Gull sighting. The Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) will not formally review your sighting. Nonetheless, we will preserve your documentation in the IORC archives. Also, I am copying the CBC editor for Illinois (Paul Sweet) and the editor of the IOS journal Meadowlark (Eric Secker) so that they are aware of your documentation.

Please also note that the completed form contains a typographic error: the date, I believe, was meant to be entered as 1 January 2021 (this year instead of last year).

Sincerely,  
Geoff Williamson  
IORC Secretary

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 1:36 PM IORC Web Submission <iorcommittee@gmail.com> wrote:

1) This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):	Unusual date Christmas Bird Count Record
If other, please describe:	
2) Species:	Franklin's Gull
3) Number of birds:	1
4) Age/Sex/Plumage:	First Winter
5) Date:	2020-01-01
6) Location (include county):	Gages Lake, Lake County, Illinois
7) Observers:	Peter Weber, Steve Bailey, Stephen Hurst
8) Your name:	Peter Weber
Street Address	[REDACTED]
Street Address Line 2	
City	[REDACTED]
State / Province / Region	[REDACTED]
Postal / Zip Code	[REDACTED]
Country	[REDACTED]

10) Your e-mail address:	
11) Others agreeing with the identification:	Steve Bailey, Stephen Hurst
12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification:	NA
13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet) include only details actually seen in the field :	Dainty gull compared to surrounding Herring Gulls. Black legs and slim, shorter, black bill. The wings were black at the very tips and extended slightly past the short, black-ipped tail. The underside and chest of the bird, as well as the edges of the tail feathers appeared clean white. The head was clear and unstreaked, with a partial, smudgy,, dark hood that included the eyes except for a white crescent which joined at the rear of the eye. The back was gray, the wings gray-brown, and the nape clear. The smaller, slender (and not drooping) bill, clear nape and chest, smaller overall size, and the brownish wings compared to gray back separated this bird from Laughing Gull.
14) Description of behavior:	The bird was sitting on the ice at the edge of some open water in the lake. It was about 150 yards away. Most of the time, it had its head tucked into its left wing, sleeping. A few times, it would raise its head for a few moments to allow me the opportunity to break down the field marks.
15) Description of vocalizations:	NA
16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):	Gages Lake is a small, suburban lake surrounded by houses. It was the only substantial open water in the CBC count area assigned to me.
17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power):	Leica 77mm Spotting Scope
18) Distance/how measured?	Approximately 150 yards
19) Time of observation:	01:10 pm
20) Total time of observation:	Approximately 30 minutes
21) Weather conditions:	Initially, I found the bird in very light snow and low, gray skies. Within several minutes of finding the bird, the weather became much more extreme. Snow, mixed with light rain and ice became heavy.
22) Previous experience with this species and similar species:	I have seen many Franklin's Gulls at all ages. I have seen them in AZ, CO, IL, TX, and WY.
23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids:	The smaller, slender (and not drooping) bill, clear nape and chest, smaller overall size, and the brownish wings compared to gray back separated this bird from Laughing Gull.
24) Were photos obtained?	Yes
25) If so, by whom?	Peter Weber and Stephen Hurst
26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description?:	NA
27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded?	As I was observing the bird in the field.
28) How long after the observation was this form	Three weeks

completed?	
29) Additional remarks (URLs can be entered here):	The photographs are not very good, but they were made for documentation purposes. We were aware that this was a very unusual date for this species. The bird is located near the center of the attached photo. It was the best I could get in the terrible conditions.

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Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

e-mail: [iorcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:iorcommittee@gmail.com)