

Franklin's Gull

Leucophaeus pipixcan

A small, black-headed gull of the prairies, the Franklin's Gull is a common sight in the interior of North America, following plows to eat exposed worms, insects, and mice.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Small gull.
- Back ashy gray.
- Underparts white.
- Wingtips black with white tips and a white band.
- Entire head black in breeding season.

Immature Description

Juvenile

White underneath, with dusky wash on sides of neck and across breast. Crown, ear region, and nape dark dusky gray. Forehead, chin, and throat white. White crescents above and below eyes. Back and wings dusky brownish gray. Tail pale gray with black subterminal band, not including white outer feathers.

First winter (Basic I) Plumage

Back gray, but wings brownish. Head pale with dark half-hood including eyes. Eye crescents thicker, and usually joining at rear. Nape whitish. Underside white. Tail white at base with broad blackish subterminal band not including white outer tail feathers.

First summer (Alternate I) Plumage

Like adult winter.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 12.6 - 14.2 inches
- Wingspan - 33.5 - 37.4 inches
- Weight - 7.8 - 11.8 ounces

