

**PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM**

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

**Nick Pulcinella, Secretary**  
**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**  
613 Howard Ave.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

360-04-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name) SABINE'S GULL XEMA SABINI  
Subspecies (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 2-3 SEX(ES) \_\_\_\_\_

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): All Imm.

DATE OF OBSERVATION 9/19/03 TIME 3-6 PM (APPROX)

LOCATION (city, borough, township) 2 Birds below Conejohela Flats / 1 Bird later 3 miles upriver @ Blue Lane below Columbia

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) WASHINGTON BORO, LANC. CO PA

**OBSERVER REPORTING:**

Name J. ERIC WITMER  
Address 230 MASON DRIVE  
City EDHRATA State PA ZIP 17522  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER OBSERVERS** (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

TOM GARNER, JASON HOEN, RICK WILTRAVT + OTHERS

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) SUSQUEHANNA RIVER / Mudbars etc. (first two)  
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER more Rocky AREA (3rd Bird)

DISTANCE TO BIRD 1/4 mile (1st Two Birds) / 200+ YARDS 3RD BIRD

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) PARTLY CLOUDY / light winds / no rain

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Qvestar 54x / KOWA 77mm 30x / LEICA 10x42 Binoculars

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): Smaller Gull w/ obvious Black Primaries contrasting with white secondaries and Brownish Gray wing coverts, scapulars and mantle. All underparts were light. The tail was white and slightly forked with a dark, wide band at end of tail. Bill and eye were black. Dusky area around sides of breast and crown.

**BEHAVIOR** (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) Occasional flying around mud bar in association of other Gulls/Terns. A lot of birds in the area, Resting and Feeding in the vast mud bars. Fair amount of resting in water w/ Ring-billed Gulls. Sabinus was much smaller.

**VOCALIZATIONS**

N/A

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:**

N/A ? Jason Horn?

Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographer/recorder/illustrator:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

**IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:**

General condition N/A

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

**SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES** (how you eliminated others)

Very distinctive pattern on Back/wings distinctive to SABINES Gull, Black legged Kittiwake + Little Gull Terns just not right no collar as on Kittiwake, Too large a bird for Little Gull

**DISCUSSION** - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

Two SABINES Gulls were found by J. Horn in the lower Corejohela Flats from the Long Level Boat Launch. They were observed ~ 1/4 mile with other Gulls + Terns frequenting the mud bars. A suspected Third Bird was found less than an hour later 3 miles upriver @ The Blue Lane site just below Columbia on the LAWC. CO SHORE. My feeling (+ others) was three birds were involved. Being influenced by HURRICANE ISABELLE.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

**PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES**

yes, I have seen 2-3 others in the Fall in PA

**ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ?** (why or why not)

yes THIS IS A VERY DISTINCTIVE BIRD

**REFERENCES CONSULTED:**

During observation N/A  
After observation N/A

**DATE OF THIS REPORT:** 11/28/03

**SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER** JHL

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round One**

Species: Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)

Date of Sighting: 19 September 2003 to 19 September 2003

Location: WASHINGTON BORO

County : LANCASTER

Observer(s): Eric Witmer, Tom Garner, Jason Horn, Rick Wiltraut et. al

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Eric Witmer

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

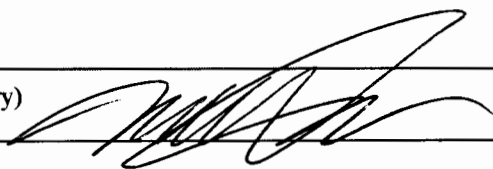
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
<del>G. Armistead</del> R. Wiltraut			X					
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

9/16/04