

Submission Date	2012-12-19 20:23:38
Observer's Name	Tom Johnson
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Phone	7175669875
Observer's Address	Street Address: 24 Meadowood Drive City: Hummelstown State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17036 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	George Armistead, Marshall Iloff, Doug Gochfeld, Cameron Rutt
Species (Common Name)	Sabine's Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Xema sabini
Number of individuals	1
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	juvenile
Observation Date and Time	10-30-2012 7:00 AM
County	Philadelphia
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Philadelphia
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Pennypack on the Delaware
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.025197,-75.0129318
Habitat	river
Distance to bird	300 meters
Viewing conditions	overcast, light wind
Optical equipment used	Swarovski scope, Leica Ultravid
Description	Marshall Iloff spotted this bird flying north over the NJ side of the river and called the crew on the PA side. We eventually viewed it, a small gull somewhat like a Bonaparte's Gull in bounding flight style and small size, circling up high over the river as it continued north. This was a small gull with a gray-brown back and inner "arm", black leading edge of the wing, and bright white triangles created by the inner primaries, secondaries,

and some distal upperwing coverts. It was very distant and none of us got any photos despite getting diagnostic views.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Flying upriver. Nothing notable.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

No similar species. Highly distinctive small gull.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes. I had diagnostic views of the upperwing pattern (as did others).

During

None

After

None

Click to edit

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