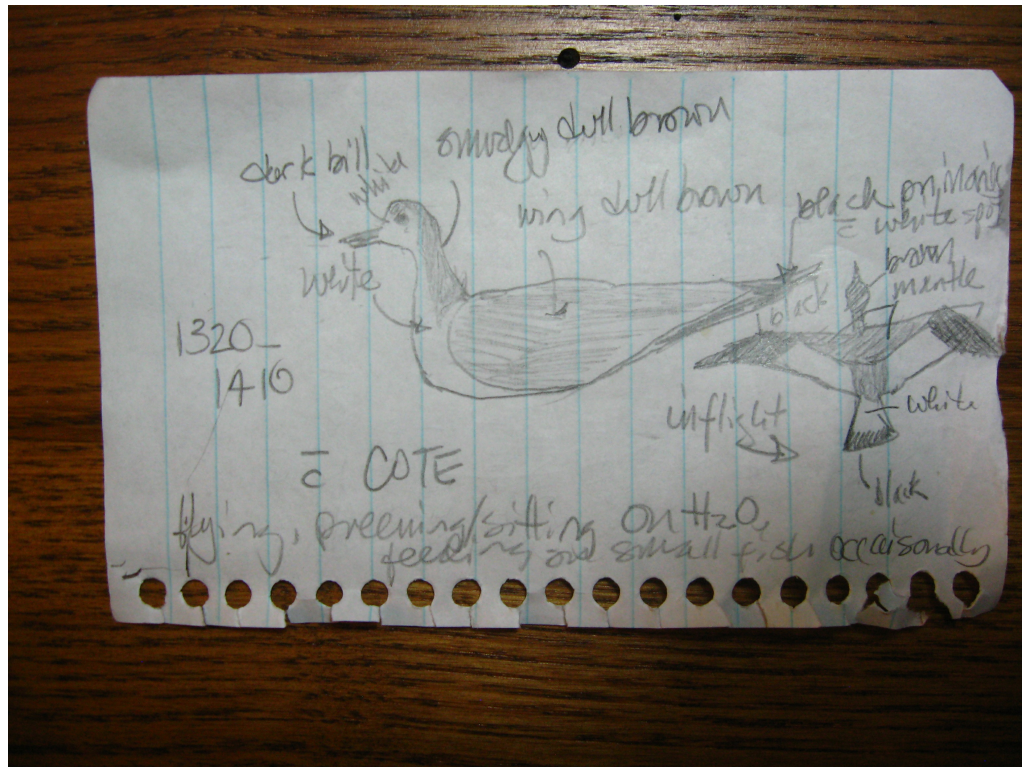


PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-10-14 18:00:46
Observer's Name	Mary Alice Koeneke
E-mail	koenekema@gmail.com
Phone	703-203-6337
Observer's Address	122 Linsdale Dr. Butler PA 16001 United States
Names of additional observers	Glenn J. Koppel
Species (Common Name)	Sabine's Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Xema sabini
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Juvenile
Observation Date and Time	09-11-2018 1:20 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48447226
County	Indiana
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Penn Run, PA
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Yellow Creek State Park
Habitat	Open, freshwater lacustrine
Distance to bird	0.25 miles
Viewing conditions	Clear, hazy, light wind
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 65 Spotting scopes with 20-60x and 25-50x lenses; Swarovski 8.5x42 EL binoculars

<p>Description</p>	<p>Sabine's Gull plumage smudgy, dark brown on head, mantle, back and sides of neck; white forehead, fore neck, breast, and abdomen. Dull brownish wings with black primaries showing white spots; white secondaries; white, shallowly forked tail with black terminal band. Dark bill and eye. Some white behind the eye was visible against the smudgy brown side of the head.</p> <p>In flight, the wings had a distinctive pattern of black primaries, brown coverts and mantle, and white secondaries and tertials.</p> <p>Near the Sabine's Gull was a Common Tern that rested alternately on the water or on a buoy marker. When in the vicinity of each other, the Sabine's Gull appeared to be close in size with the Common Tern.</p>
<p>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</p>	<p>We viewed the bird at a distance primarily through our spotting scopes watching it as it sat and preened on the water and occasionally flew off to feed. At one point it disappeared to the east for 15 minutes and then reappeared, landing in the same area where it had originally been seen. Flight was buoyant and similar to the Common Tern's flight pattern.</p>
<p>Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)</p>	<p>Although the bird had been previously reported and the identification confirmed, when in flight the wing pattern was very contrasting black and white; only a juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake came to mind as a possible similar species. However, although the juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake has a black terminal tail band like the Sabine's Gull, the darkly marked plumage (primaries and coverts) form an "M" when the wings are spread in flight. The Sabine's Gull wing pattern did not resemble this formation at all.</p>
<p>Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:</p>	<p>Attached photograph of handwritten and drawn field notes.</p>
<p>Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)</p>	<p>Yes. The bird viewed had a plumage pattern and the size and shape of the juvenile Sabine's Gull as shown in David Sibley's Guide to Birds. Also, both observers have seen Sabine's Gull previously including the individual found at Pymatuning in September 2014. In addition, M.A. Koeneke observed more than 1,000 Sabine's Gulls off Monterey, California in August 1993 with Debbie Shearwater.</p>
<p>During</p>	<p>Sibley, David Allen. 2000. National Audubon Society: The Sibley Guide to Birds p.228</p>
<p>After</p>	<p>Sibley, David Allen. 2000. National Audubon Society: The Sibley Guide to Birds p.228</p>
<p>Supporting evidence (check all that apply)</p>	<p>Drawing</p>

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[IMG_1153.JPG](#)

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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-11-03 18:11:21
Observer's Name	Michael David
E-mail	michaeldavid@gmail.com
Observer's Address	United States
Species (Common Name)	Sabine's Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Xema sabini
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Juvenile
Observation Date and Time	09-11-2018 10:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48437113
County	Indiana
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Penn Run
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Yellow Creek State Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.573517, -79.013382
Habitat	open water
Distance to bird	400-500 m
Description	Small gull (size of Bonaparte's Gull) with small bill. Brownish above with smudgy brown continuing down sides of neck; otherwise white below. In flight, distinctive white triangle along trailing wing edge on secondaries and inner primaries, and dark outer primaries and coverts.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Viewed flying around fairly high above the lake, and also sitting on the water.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	No other species has the bold 3-toned upperwing in flight formed by brown "shoulders", dark outer primaries, and white triangle along trailing edge.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Photo is way out but shows diagnostic wing pattern. I also have experience with 2 juvenile Sabine's Gulls in PA previously (Huntingdon and Clarion/Venango counties).

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

Yes, diagnostic photos taken

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[Sabine's Gull, Indiana, PA.JPG](#)

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