

Submission Date	2013-03-16 20:01:30
Observer's Name	Jerry McWilliams
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Phone	814-240-8594
Observer's Address	Street Address: 3508 Allegheny Rd. City: Erie State / Province: Pa Postal / Zip Code: 16508 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Mike Weible
Species (Common Name)	Black-headed Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Larus ridibundus
Number of individuals	2
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	adults in alternate definitive plumage
Observation Date and Time	03-16-2013 1:10 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Erie
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Erie
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Misery Bay, Presque Isle State Park
Habitat	sitting on the water and in flight over bay
Distance to bird	300 yards
Viewing conditions	very good under cloudy skies
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 8 X 42 and Kowa TSN 884 up to 50X
Description	Slightly larger and paler mantled than nearby Bonaparte's Gulls, full dark hood extending to back of head and not onto nape. One of the birds had white feathers flecked under the bill and on the face. Solid red bill that was slightly longer and heavier than the nearby Bonaparte's Gulls. Pure white undersides and tail. Upperwings pale gray with thin white wedge at outer primaries. Under primaries blackish with only outermost primary white. The blackish under primaries seemed to extend a bit down on the secondaries in

one bird.

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

Both birds were seen resting on the water among thousands of Bonaparte's and not far from each other at one point. One bird spent most of the afternoon on the water while the other moved around more often feeding with a few Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Larger size, paler mantle with white, not gray nape, red bill, and blackish under primaries separated it from Bonaparte's Gull, the only species in North America likely to be confused with this species.

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

Mike Weible found and identified one of the birds and thought that he had seen perhaps two birds. I verified that there were two later in the afternoon. Mike took identifiable photos of both birds.

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

Absolutely, I have seen several of these birds in Erie County, Pa. and Niagara Falls in Ontario and many in Europe

During

none

After

none

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