

Submission ID	218591713987743906
Submission Date	2012-11-12 23:55:13
Observer's Name	Michael David
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Observer's Address	Street Address: 7420 Ben Hur St. City: Pittsburgh State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15208 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Jason Horn, Dave Wilton, Devich Farbotnik, Andrew Markel, Ian Gardner
Species (Common Name)	Sabine's Gull
Species (Scientific Name)	Xema sabini
Subspecies (if known)	
Number of individuals	1
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Immature
Observation Date and Time	10-31-2012 3:30 PM
County	Huntingdon
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Penn Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Raystown Lake
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.3725646,-78.0866468
Habitat	Lake
Distance to bird	700m
Viewing conditions	
Optical equipment used	
Description	Observed with a mixed group of waterbirds, mainly loons and gulls. Very close in size to Bonaparte's Gull, 4 of which it associated loosely with. Dull brownish

back made the bird hard to pick out when sitting on the water. When it spread its wings, bright white areas were visible, mostly on the flight feathers, where the white grew wider toward the outer secondaries and then narrowed again toward the outer primaries, creating a triangular shape with base along the trailing wing edge and point near the leading edge at the bend of the wing. These white areas contrasted sharply with the brown back and dark outer primaries and coverts.

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

The bird spent much of the time resting on the water, sometimes preening, in loose association with 4 Bonaparte's Gulls and several Ring-billed Gulls as well as approx. 30 Common Loons. It flew at least 4 times for periods of 30 seconds or more, circling in the same general area and returning to the bay where all the birds were congregating.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

All other gulls have very different wing patterns.

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

I had observed 3 immature Sabine's Gulls the previous month on a guided "pelagic" trip onto the Ohio waters of Lake Erie, so I had prior and recent experience with this species. 3 others present also had seen Sabine's Gull before.

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

Yes, the wing pattern is diagnostic and was viewed well from all angles as the bird circled in flight. All parties were in agreement on the identification.

During

After

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

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