

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2020-12-02 13:31:41
Observer's Name	Jerry McWilliams
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Phone	18142408594
Observer's Address	3508 Allegheny Rd. Erie PA 16508 United States
Names of additional observers	Jerry McWilliams
Species (Common Name)	Black-legged Kittiwake
Species (Scientific Name)	Rissa tridactyla
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	immature
Observation Date and Time	12-02-2020 8:40 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	S76981438
County	Erie
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Presque Isle State Park
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Sunset Point
GPS coordinates of sighting	N 42.17246 W 80.08915
Habitat	over Lake Erie
Distance to bird	perhaps 300 feet
Viewing conditions	good
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 8 X 42 binocular

Description	At 0840 an immature Black-legged Kittiwake passed by the waterbird count. I almost missed it, since it was fairly close to the shore and rapidly moving east with a 30 mph WNW pushing it along. Just as I spotted the bird it made a loop giving me stunning looks at the upperside pattern. The bird was about the size of a Ring-billed Gull, quickly ruling out an immature Little Gull. The outer primaries were black with a bold black bar crossing the forewing from the bend of the wing to the tertials. It had a white head with a dark spot behind the eye, a black bill, and a prominent black bar across the back of the neck. The mantle and forewings were a medium gray. The tail was white and squared-off at the end with a narrow black tail band. This is the third one seen this fall at Presque Isle.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Flying rapidly east not far offshore about 100 feet above the water.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Ring-billed Gull in size, which would rule out the much smaller Little Gull. Immature Little Gull has rounder wings with an even more bold 'M' pattern across the upperside. Immature Sabine's Gull is smaller as well and is dark brown across the back and forewing not gray. Both Little Gull and Sabine's Gull lack the black collar bar as well.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes. As discussed above. Upperside pattern and size diagnostic. I have seen several others over the past few years at Presque Isle, plus I have seen them off the Atlantic coast.
During	none
After	none
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