

# PA Rare Bird Report

## PORC Rare Bird Report

Please check the PA Review List before submitting a report if you are unsure whether or not the species is rare: <http://www.pabirds.org/records/index.php/review-list/>

All information submitted through this form (including photographs) will become publicly available on the [PORC website](#). You may choose to exclude your address and phone number if you prefer.

Refer to [this webpage](#) for tips on how to document your sightings.

<b>Observer's Name</b>	Jerry McWilliams
<b>E-mail</b>	jerrymcw@aol.com
<b>Phone</b>	18142408594
<b>Observer's Address</b>	3508 Allegheny Rd. Erie, PA, 16508 United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Jerry McWilliams

## Documentation

<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	California Gull
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Larus californica
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	second summer?
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	Sunday, June 20, 2021 09:30
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	S90498304
<b>County</b>	Erie
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Erie
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Gull Point, Presque Isle State Park

<b>Habitat</b>	Sand lain along edge of lake
<b>Distance to bird</b>	300 yards
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	variably cloudy
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	8X Swarovski Binocular and Kowa Telescope

### Description

Closer in size to Ring-billed Gull. Slightly darker gray mantle than nearby adult Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. Bill not as thick at gony angle as in Herring Gull. Orange and dark spot on lower mandible. All dark iris. Entire head and underside pure clean white. Dark marks on tertials forming a tail band reaching about mid-way on tail. Some patches of dark feathers noted on spread wing when in flight and some dark secondaries and primary coverts. Inner primaries in molt. One small mirror in primary 10 and a tiny one in primary 9. Legs green, similar to the leg color of Ring-billed Gulls, though a bit darker. Based upon the tail band and darker feathers on the wings suggest a second summer bird. Photos forthcoming.

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

Spent much of its time preening among Ring-billed and Herring Gulls of all ages. Called a few times with neck outstretched with bill facing skyward.

### Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Paler mantle than LBBG with more greenish than yellow legs. LBBG at this age has bright yellow legs. Small red and black spot on lower mandible. Tail band broader than LBBG. All dark iris. Showed strong contrast between dark primaries and pale wing coverts and mantle. LBBG has less contrast between primaries and upper wing and mantle.

**Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)** Yes. Having direct comparison with RBGU and HEGU made identification rather straightforward. The light allowed to get an accurate leg color comparison with the other gulls.

## References Consulted

<b>During</b>	none
<b>After</b>	Sibley Birds, second addition and Gulls of North America, Europe, and Asia by Olsen and Larssona

## Uploads

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**  Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings







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