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Documentation of Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

Location: Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County

Date: October 24, 1988 Time: 5 - 6:30 pm

Description of Bird: A gull larger than Bonaparte's and approximately the same size as Ring-billed Gulls both present for direct comparison. It had a black bill, slender with a slight downturn at the tip. White head with a dark eye and a dark smudge behind the eye on each side connected by a thin dark line around the back of the head, giving the appearance of ear muffs. There was a heavy black bar around the shoulders at the nape of the neck. Breast and belly were white. Tail was white with a black v-shaped wedge at tip. Mantle was darker than the Ring-billed Gulls & Bonaparte's. In flight, the upper wing from the wrist and 1st, 2nd & 3rd primaries was black. Remainder of primaries and secondaries were white. Median coverts were black. The black on the upper wing formed a "W" in flight. Underwings were white.

Separation from similar species: Larger size and black bar on nape of neck separate this species from Sabine's Gull.

Distance from bird: Closest distance was 100 yards.

Behavior of bird: Was sitting on the water with Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls. Several times it flew around the lake, at times flying about 50- 100 feet above the water.

Equipment Used: Bushnell 25x Spacemaster II.

Other observers: Alan Grenon, Betty Grenon, Sandy Kovanda, Jim Kovanda.

Light and weather conditions: Excellent light with light overcast. The sun came out for a few minutes before it set. Wind was calm. The light and weather conditions made observation outstanding.

This documentation is being written on 10/24/88 from notes made with bird in view.

*Babs Padelford*