

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/20/00

Sabine's Gull

27 Sep 1995

Black Hawk L., Sac Co., IA

*P. Ernzen, *J. Fuller

1-2, to 14 Oct; IBL 66:22, 96

Record Number: 95-56

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATIONS

P. Ernzen, 401 Taylor, Ida Grove 51445 [*3/24/96]

Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:22

Records Committee: IBL 66:96

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Apparently 2 birds!

95-56

Sabine's Gull.

Up to 2 Sabine's Gulls were present at Blackhawk Lake in Sac Co. The first one was observed on 9/27/95 - last time seen 10/14/95. 2 birds were observed at the same time on 10/1, 10/2/95. The following is a description based on several observations from as little as 2 min to over 1 hr.



of Black, brown & white with a slightly forked tail with a thin black band at the end of ~~the tail~~ ^{the tail}.

Bird was small - sitting bird showed a brown

95-56

mantle - bill was thin and black -

Flight was low over the water and tern like.

The bird was seen from 100 ft to an est 150 yds -
in various light conditions.

My experience with this bird from the
previous year proved beneficial in recognizing
this sp

P. E. Taylor
401 TAYLOR
IDA GROVE IA 51445

J2-2P

95-56

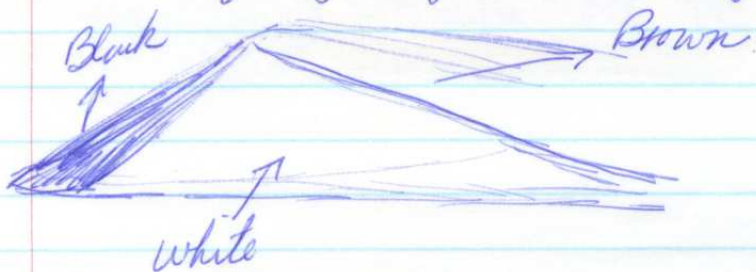
Sabine's Gull.

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2 birds were observed at the same time on

10/1, 10/2/95. The following is a description based on several observations from as little as 2 min to over 1 hr.

The striking white triangular pattern on the dorsal side of wing along with the striking tricolored wings



of Black, brown & white with a slightly forked tail with a thin black band at the end of the ~~flight~~ tail.

Bird was small - sitting bird showed at brown

22-29

Bird capture

month. - bill was thin and black.

Flight was low over the water and tern like.

The bird was seen from 150 ft to an est 150 yds.
in various light conditions.My experience with this bird from the
previous year proved beneficial in recognizing
this sp

Pomarine
401 74410R
TDA GREAT TA 51445



From left looking at photos of similar species I would probably
~~identify~~ identify by shape of the wing and tail and
 would be possible bird picture - a Pomarine was bird

95-56

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: SABINE'S GULL (Juvenile)

LOCATION: Black Hawk Lake and adjacent dredge pond (Sac County)

DATE & TIME: 28 September, 1995 (10:15-10:30 AM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, IA., 52240]

OTHERS: Discovered by Pete Ernzen

DESCRIPTION: I found this bird with hundreds of Franklin's Gulls standing on a mud flat at the dredge pond which is adjacent to the southeast corner of Black Hawk Lake. It was noticeably smaller than any of the Franklin's Gulls, and appeared to be about 75% their size. It also stood out from the Franklin's, because of its dark brownish gray upperparts, compared to their gray upperparts. The head and bill were also relatively smaller. The upperparts were a brownish-gray, which included a little lighter wash on the back of the head and neck. The eye was dark, as was the straight bill. The tip of the folded wings and tail were dark. The underparts were white, along with the breast, throat and forehead. The legs were a grayish-pink color.

After about 15 minutes, the bird flew from the dredge pond out onto the lake. In flight, the most noticeable feature was the upperwing pattern, which showed a white triangle in the middle pointed toward the forewing, with black primaries toward the end of the wing, and the inner part of the wing was brownish. The white tail was notched, and had a black terminal band.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Juvenile Bonaparte's, Little, and Black-headed are all much more gray than brown in the upperparts, have a spot behind the eye, and have a bowed tail, rather than notched. The upper wing pattern is not as clearly three distinct blocks of color. The Black-legged Kittiwake juvenile does have a notched tail, but has black legs, more gray in the back and wing, a spot behind the eye, and a back of the neck band.

OPTICS & CONDITIONS: I was looking south with a KOWA-TSN-4 telescope (20-60X zoom) set at 30X. While the bird flew, I was looking with Swift Audubon binoculars (8.5 X 44) at distances of 50-300 yards to the south through west. It was a sunny day at mid-morning.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I have seen juvenile Sabine's Gulls four previous times in Iowa, as well as adults in Iowa and Alaska.

REFERENCES & FIELD NOTES: Field notes were written before I left the Black Hawk Lake area, and this form was typed on 12 October. The National Geographic Field Guide was viewed prior to writing field notes.