

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Bird name (common & scientific): Sabine's gull *Xema sabini*

Date & time of sighting: 8 October 1993, early dusk

Length of time observed: about 10 minutes

Number of birds observed: 1

Age & Sex: immature

Lat/Long, and Location: Antelope Is. Causeway, between entrance and first bridge.

Elevation: shore of lake

Distance to bird: 10 feet

Light conditions: diffuse

Optical equipment: 10 x 40 Bausch & Lomb Custom binoculars

Weather: partly cloudy

Description of bird:

- Very small gull. Much smaller than ring-billed and California gulls nearby. Seemed much smaller than any gull I have ever seen, including Franklin's.
- Gently forked, white tail with a 1/2 - 1" wide, black terminal band.
- Black bill, thinner, more petit, and less hooked than California and ring-billed gulls.
- Black triangular edge of wings on outermost (about 3 or 4) primaries.
- Brown along upper wing coverts and across back, contrasting with white on secondaries and inner primaries.
- Grayish/brownish on head extending around from crown to nape, and in a converging line to the eye from the back.
- Legs dark grayish pink.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: silent

Behavior: Feeding on brine flies along edge of water at the shore. Allowed me to get very close before flying on a short distance (no more than 30') to immediately resume feeding on flies.

Habitat: Edge of water at Antelope Island Causeway, in rocks and fine sands/silts along the shore.

Similar species and how these were eliminated:

- Bonapart's/Franklin's gulls: Black wedges on wings, brown on wings and back, forked tail.
- Terns: Legs were much too long for terns. Less squat & streamlined profile. Waddled about too much.

Previous experience with this and similar species: Lifer. I've often seen the "similar species" listed above.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how these influenced this description:

Peterson's *A field Guide to Western Birds*, 3rd ed.
 National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, 2nd ed.
Seabirds: An Identification Guide

Additional material (drawing, photograph, tape, DNA sample, corpse, etc.): none

Description from: 1. Notes taken at time of sighting —
 2. Notes made later (if so, when) —
 3. From memory ✓

Date this form was prepared: 11 October 93

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Signature:



Other observers who independently identified this bird: Laura Lockhart

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