

# Long Point Bird Observatory Rare Bird Report Form

P.O. BOX 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, Canada N0E 1M0 Tel: (519) 586-3531 x 162

[lpbo@birdscanada.org](mailto:lpbo@birdscanada.org) - [www.birdscanada.org/lpbo](http://www.birdscanada.org/lpbo)



Canadian Migration  
Monitoring Network



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BIRD STUDIES  
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX CANADA

In order that any sight record or banding of a rare species can be confirmed for the historical record, it must be properly documented. LPBO cooperators are therefore asked to complete a form in every case where a rarity is being claimed. Guidance as to which species are considered rare in the Long Point area may be obtained from the LPBO Program Coordinator and in the Long Point Area Checklist found in *A Birding Guide to Long Point Area*. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature.

**PLEASE PRINT.**

**Species claimed:** Sabine's Gull

**No. of birds:** 1

**Age:** first basic

**Sex:** unknown

**Date(s):** August 25, 2015

**Place:** Longridge Point, Ontario

**Time(s) of Observation:**

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**Who first saw the bird(s):** Stu Mackenzie

**Who first identified it:** Stu Mackenzie

**Other observers (names and addresses):** Adam Timpf - adam. and Kyle Marsh (kylemarsh4@gmail.com)

**Any who disagree:** None that will ever be found...

**Your previous experience with the species:** SAM and APT have experience with the species from Vanwagners Beach in Hamilton, and along the Niagara River ~12 observations of numerous individuals between the two.

**Your previous experience with any closely similar species:** lot o' Bonies.

**(a) Formerly:**

**(b) Same day:** Bird was flying with Bonaparte's Gulls at the time of observation.

**Species present for comparison:** Bonaparte Gull

**Which were beside it for comparison:** Bonaparte Gull

**Distance from observer(s):** 100m

**How measured:** Estimate

**Optical aids used:** 8.5x42 Swarovski EL's (2), Nikon (10x42)

**Weather conditions (at time of observation)****Visibility:** 10 km +**Cloud Cover:** 100%**Lighting:** Bright overcast**Wind direction and speed:** NE-Easterly - beaufort 3-4**Circumstances:**

The three of us were surveying shorebirds and loosely working our way north from Longridge Point on West Bay, approximately 3-4 km north of Longridge Point, and approximately 2km or more from the high water line (low-ish tide). Around 1440 we congregated on the water line observing some distant Hudsonian Godwits. Shortly thereafter I noticed 7 small gulls flying toward us from the south. They flew toward us and right overhead. One bird immediately drew my gaze and was quickly identified as a young Sabine's Gull as they flew overhead and headed out to sea. The flock was moving quickly and they made their way from about 500m to 1 km + offshore in no time. We tracked the flock for about 15 minutes observing the Sabine's periodically as it made upward swings and banked as the flock worked their way south along the water line.

**Description:**

**Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions. Include reasons for the elimination of other species.**

Contrasting flight characteristics first caught my eye as the small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls approached. The flight was a little more bouyant and lofty than the Bonaparte's, but the bird was no less apt at flying against the north and easterly winds with great speed and ease. The bird appeared longer-winged, bodied, and tailed than the bonies. As the bird approached, a light face contrasting a dark grayish-brown head and back became apparent, the dark colour of the head, back (stopping above the upper tail coverts) and inner wing coverts wrapped faintly around the neck making an incomplete collar. As the bird approached, a very distinct white chevron in the middle of the wings highlighted by dark outer primaries was very apparent, even from below. The bird's undersides were white aside from a black terminal band on the tail. Very distinct chevron pattern of the upperwing was observed on numerous occasions as the bird flew away from us, and later observed along the water line. The bird was easily picked out a number of times at some distance among the bonies as the foraged over the open water.

Black-legged Kittiwake - bird in question was too small, petite, for a BLKI. No distinct black facial markings or neck band. Chevrons on wings were formed by uniform gray-brown across the back and inner coverts, white inner secondaries and inner primaries, and black outer primaries, not outlined black as in BLKI.

**Did you refer to any guides/other literature:** no**(a) at the time:** no**(b) afterwards:** no**Finally, is this record 100% certain? Yes****Signed:**

**E-mail Address:** stu.a.mackenzie@gmail.com**Date:** December 13, 2015 - from notes taken August 25