

3-1986

## Common Black-Headed Gull in Nebraska

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Padelford, Loren and Padelford, Babs, "Common Black-Headed Gull in Nebraska" (1986). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 943.  
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#### COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL IN NEBRASKA

About noon on 18 November 1985 B. J. Rose (14937 N St., Omaha, Neb. 68137) saw a gull flying over the Hartford Sand & Gravel Co.'s sandpit lake, a mile north of Venice, Douglas Co. Because of the size and flight pattern he expected it to be a Kittiwake, but when he got the binoculars on it he saw the white wedge along the outer wing, similar to that of a Bonaparte's. However, except for the white outer primaries, the underwings were uniformly dark. It was an adult winter-plumaged bird with a dark spot behind the eye, bill brownish color (not black), tail all white. There were no other gulls present for direct size comparison, but it was noticeably smaller than drake Mallards. The bird was feeding, and would fly up, circle, and alight on the water, keeping its wings extended upward as it fed. The flight was deliberate, with relatively slow wingbeats in comparison to Bonaparte's. Mr. Rose had seen a Common Black-headed Gull on St. Paul Island, Alaska, in June. The Alaska bird was studied for about half an hour at about 40 yards. The feeding habit, flight pattern, and general behavior of the Nebraska bird were the same as the Alaska bird. The wing markings of the birds were identical. The Nebraska bird was seen at about 150 yards under sunny, good light conditions, for about 15 minutes. Mr. Rose had a 15x-60x B&L spotting scope with him, as well as 10x50 Bushnell binoculars.

There is a previous Nebraska record for a Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) -- one at Walgren Lake, Sheridan Co., 12 September 1979 (Richard C. Rosche, *Birds of Northwestern Nebraska and Southwestern South Dakota*, 1982).

--- Babe and Loren Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, Neb. 68005