


4324 Glenwood Drive  
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Oct. 1, 1998

Dear Steven,

Merril Webb suggested that I send you the following information. My wife Pauline and I are birders from Pennsylvania. We were in Utah for a week in mid September. On Sept. 14 we were staying in Tropic, near Bryce Canyon, at a small B&B. About 6PM we walked down a path through a brushy area along a small stream, looking for whatever birds we could see. Apparently this was the first day in over a week than did not have heavy rains, so there was a good deal of bird activity. At the end of the path we looked out and saw two strange birds flying along at about 100 yards. They both had a flashy black and white appearance, and a very bouyant flight. My first thought was Willet, and Pauline's was Black-necked Stilt. As the birds came closer I could see the pattern on the wings; large black, white, and gray triangles. I thought "Sabine's Gull", realizing that Tropic, Utah, is a rather unusual spot for these birds. By this time it was 7PM and getting dark. A flock of about 12 Snowy Egrets also took off from the area where the gulls came from.

When we returned to the B&B we asked the owner if there was any water in the direction the birds had come from. She said that the Tropic Sewarage Ponds were located at this spot. Early the next morning, Sept. 15, we went directly to the ponds. Pauline found the two birds still there, sitting on the water and occasionally flying around. This time I had my camera, and took several pictures, a few of which I enclose. Our book on Utah birds, which is now about 20 years out of date, has only a few records, so I thought that the photos would be of use to the Utah birding community. I called this sighting in to the Rare Bird tape, but I do not know if anyone else ever found the birds, as we left later that day.

Regards,  
  
Bernard Morris

