

# Bonaparte's Gull

*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

A small, graceful gull with bright white patches in its wings, the Bonaparte's Gull winters near people, but breeds in the isolated taiga and boreal forest.

## Keys to Identification

### Adult Description

- Small gull.
- White triangle in outer part of wing.
- Back pale gray.
- Underparts white.
- Head black during breeding.
- Dark spot behind eyes in winter.

### Immature Description

Juvenile with much brown on head, neck, and back, a dark bar across the wing, and a black tail tip. Immature similar to nonbreeding adult, but with brownish black bar across the base of the wing, much black in the outer wing, and a black band across the tip of the tail. In first breeding plumage the black head is partly mottled with white.

## Cool Facts

- The Bonaparte's Gull is the only gull that regularly nests in trees.
- During the breeding season, the Bonaparte's Gull feeds mainly on insects, often catching them on the wing.

## Measurements

### Both Sexes

- Length - 11 - 15 inches
- Wingspan - 29.9 - 31.5 inches
- Weight - 6.3 - 7.9 ounces

