

2004-78

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Louisiana Ornithological Society's

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Rare Bird Report Form

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The (LBRC) recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to ensure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

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1. **English and Scientific names:** Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)
 2. **Numbers of individuals, age, sex, general plumage** (e.g. "2 adult males in alternate <breeding> plumage"):
1 adult individual in alternate plumage; unknown sex
 3. **Locality:** Louisiana **Parish:** Caddo/Bossier
Specific Locality: Red River within a mile north of Lock and Dam No. 5
 4. **Date(s) when observed:** 29 August 2004
 5. **Time(s) of day when observed:** ~ 5:45 p.m.
 6. **Reporting observer and address:**
Dr. James L. Ingold
Department of Biological Sciences
LSU-Shreveport
1 University Place
Shreveport, LA 71115
318-797-5236
jingold@pilot.lsus.edu
 7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):** Charlie Lyon, Rosemary Seidler, Vickie LeFevers, Ann McLaurin, David Ren, Bill Hall
 8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):**
 9. **Light conditions** (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sunny and clear sky; sun was at my back on first observation
 10. **Optical equipment** (type, power, condition): Celestron Regal 10x binoculars
 11. **Distance to bird(s):** ~100 feet

12. **Duration of observation:** 1 minutes at close range on first observation; ~1 minute from about ¼ mile on second sighting
13. **Habitat:** Bird was flying over the open water of the Red River
14. **Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation** (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird was flying over the open water of the Red River just north of Bishop's Point boat launch. It then flew south towards Lock and Dam No. 5 where it was sighted again flying on the east side of the river near revetments.
15. **Description** (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; if possible, give details on total length/relative size compared to other familiar species. Body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species. Attach additional pages if necessary):
- A smaller gull with a black hood. The bird was first spotted by Nancy Mensaco who was in a boat behind us. She called out, "Is that a Laughing Gull." The bird was behind us and as we looked to our right the bird was parallel to us but ~100 feet away. Charlie immediately called out it was a Sabine's Gull. Along with the complete back hood the bird had a black bill (at the time I did not know to look for the yellow tip – therefore I did not observe it). The tail was pure white above. On its dorsal surface the bird had the unique pattern of the Sabine's Gull: dark gray mantle with large white patches on the center rear of both wings and with the outer edge of the wings (primaries & coverts) being black.
16. **Voice:** N/A
17. **Similar species** and (How they are eliminated by your description?):
No adult hooded gull species has the wing pattern of Sabine's Gull.
18. **Photographs or tape recordings obtained?** (by whom? attached?): No photos were taken
19. **Previous experience with this species:** None other than years of looking at them in books.
20. **Identification aids:** (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
- a. at time of observation: National Geographic Guide
- b. after observation: Peter Harrison's Seabirds: An Identification Guide
21. **This description is written from:** ___ notes made during the observation; ___ notes made after the observation (date: _____); X memory.
22. **Are you positive of your identification (if not, then explain)?**: Yes
23. **Signature of reporter:** Jane Z Ingold (Date) 10-15-04