

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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 assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
2 in juvenile plumage
3. Parish: Caddo
Specific Locality: Cross Lake from boat on open water.
4. Date(s) when observed: 5 Sep, 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 4:30pm
6. Reporting observer and address: John Dillon, 183 Dance Road, Athens, LA 71003
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Charlie Lyon, Rosemary Seidler, Jeff Trahan, Dot Rambin
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Charlie Lyon, prior to everyone else's arrival.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Mostly sunny. Open water.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Alpen Rainier 8x42 binoculars in very good condition.

11. Distance to bird(s): As close as within 50 feet at times.

12. Duration of observation: Around 20 minutes.

13. Habitat: Middle of Cross Lake on open water.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Both birds observed sitting on water and flying. Not associating with each other. Didn't seem to be associating with other species.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: 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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): Bird #1: Small gull with moderately sized all-black bill. All white between bill and eye; eye all dark. Pale to medium gray beginning at eye and progressing toward rear of head and down rear and side of neck. Foreneck white. Mantle, scapulars, coverts all pale to medium gray with obvious white edges giving very scalloped appearance. Primaries long and all black with minimal white edges. White undertail. Bird in flight showed strong black and white contrast on upperside of wings. All white secondaries with white extending to mid-primaries. All coverets gray with dark gray to black primaries. Tail in flight somewhat forked with black, chevron-shaped terminal band. All white on rest of upperside of tail with white rump. Legs pale pink. Bird #2: Basically the same as the first bird with somewhat darker gray on mantle, scapulars, and coverts. Less gray on head behind eye with slightly more white or just paler toned gray. Gave more contrast overall than 1st bird.

16. Voice: Did not vocalize.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Most similar would be Black-legged Kittiwake. It can be eliminated by black legs, a black collar around the back of the neck, and black across secondary coverts instead of gray. Bonaparte's somewhat similar is eliminated by much less black in primaries and more white, and it has a narrow black strip across the secondary coverts. A melanistic BOGU would not have the forked tail. Little Gull also somewhat similar but with black strip through secondary coverts and tail is not forked.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Several by Charlie Lyon and Jeff Trahan. I've attached a few of Charlie's.

19. Previous experience with this species: None.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: Sibley.

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

memory

study of images

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes.

23. Date: 26 Nov, 2017

Time: 12:45pm.

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? _____ Yes, but not the images unless you have Charlie's permission. I don't want to give the impression they belong to me.

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____ Yes. _____