

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).

1. English and Scientific names: *Sabine's Gull - Xema sabini*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): *3 immatures*
3. Locality: Parish: *Plaquemines*
4. Specific Locality: *~20 miles south of South Pass*
5. Date(s) when observed: *9/20/25*
6. Time(s) of day when observed: *mid afternoon*
7. Reporting observer and address: *Esme Rosen*
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *spotted by David Vander Pluym, and seen by all on the boat*
9. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *excellent*
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Nikon Binoculars*
12. Distance to bird(s): *as close as 1 meter away*
13. Duration of observation: *30 minutes*
14. Habitat: *sargassum line on open ocean*
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): *in a group feeding, unafraid of boat*

16. 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): Beautiful small gulls with scaly greybrown back and wing feathers. Grey-brown extending up neck to back of head. White below, with white lore, forehead, and front of legs. Black primaries with 4 apical spots. In flight, very pointed wings, white tail with thin black bar at tip, distinctive white "M" shape on inner primaries and secondaries, with outer primaries black and coverts and other wing feathers gray. All black bill, black legs/feet.

17. Voice: not heard

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): no similar species

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos attached

20. Previous experience with this species: I have seen them several times in Nevada before

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

22. Identification aids used when (at time of observation, after observation):

23. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: yes

24. Date report completed: 2/22/26

25. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? yes

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











