

## LBRC Report Form

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 juveniles
3. Parish:  
Plaquemines Parish
4. Specific Locality:  
23 mi. SSW to 18 mi. S South Pass
5. Date(s) when observed: 20 Sep 2025
6. Time(s) of day when observed: ~3:40 PM
7. Reporting observer: David Vander Pluym
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
Many on board, I first called out gulls and as we got closer David Muth jokingly said maybe they are Sabine's Gulls at which point had a good enough view that I replied "They are" Though he apparently thought I was also joking.
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
Many on board
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sun was high and we were able to get them in good light
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x42 Swarovski's
12. Distance to bird(s): Probably got within 30 feet
13. Duration of observation: ~10 min
14. Habitat: Pelagic waters at a hard break between green and blue water which created a sargassum line that the birds were feeding in

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Resting and feeding on the water, pecking at things in the sargassum, briefly flew

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):

Small gulls with black primaries edged white (broader on inner primaries), eye and bill black. Upper parts gray-brown with the coverts edged in pale, gray brown wash onto the neck and head. Face and throat were white. In flight showed the classic tri pattern of black outer primaries, white secondaries with a wedge of white up the inner primaries, gray-brown back, and white tail with a black tail band.

17. Voice:

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):  
Distinctive species

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):  
I attached mine, but photographed by many that can be found here  
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275235971>

20. Previous experience with this species: thousands primarily on the couple hundred pelagics I have done off California, but also dozens inland in Arizona, and in non breeding plumage off Peru.

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):  
none

22. Identification aids used when?  
None used

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

24. Date report completed:  
27 Sep 2025

25. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

Yes

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

Yes





