

Sabine's Gull
5 Oct 1986
Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA
*S. Dinsmore
IBL 57:17, 78

Record Number: 86-15
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Steve Dinsmore

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 57:17
Records Committee: IBL 57:78

VOTE: 6-III, 1-IV

III, Very conclusive description.

IV, Description of wing pattern in flight is vague, hard to interpret. Coloration of wing sounds as though it could be Sabine's but without drawing the pattern is very hard to perceive. A drawing needs to be included for a complete understanding of what the observer is really trying to get across to the reader of the documentation. A missed field mark on a bird seen for such a short duration could just as easily become a different species.

III, Does one slip thru Iowa regularly--but usually undetected?

III, Good description and size comparison. Date likely.

REVOTE (by mail): 7-III

III, This wing pattern is well described. I looked at an illustration of juvenile bird while reading documentation and had no problem with description of wing pattern, It doesn't seem that any field marks were missed.

III, Agree that drawing would help, but description sounds OK to me.

III, I still have reservations about this record but the record seems to be plausible and I do not see that the documentation describes any other species.

III, The wording in the description of the wing pattern certainly could have been better and a drawing would have helped but I believe the documentation does describe a juv. Sabine's Gull.

III, OK description. Not difficult to ID.

86-15

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

by the Records Committee

of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

86-15

SPECIES: *Sabine's Gull*

DATE SEEN: *10-5-86*

SITE OF OBSERVATION: *Saybrville Res.*

OBSERVERS: *S. Dinsmore*

DATE OF REVIEW: *5-30-87*

METHOD OF REVIEW: *Vote*

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: *III*

COMMENTS:

Very conclusive description

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species? Sabine's Gull

How Many? 1 juvenile

Location? Oak Grove Beach, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.

Habitat? sitting on and circling over the beach parking lot

Date? 5 Oct 1986

Time? 9:13-9:18 A.M.

Observers Name and address: Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird: none, to my knowledge

Description of bird: While scanning over some Franklin's Gulls at the beach, I noticed a gull with an unusual wing pattern land among them. While sitting, the bird was similar in appearance to a juvenile Franklin's Gull. The bird was the same size as a Franklin's Gull. The nape and crown were brown. The back was brown with fine white speckling. The wings appeared brown on the perched bird. The bill was dark. Leg color was not seen. After the brief look at the perched bird, it took off and flew towards the dam. The wing pattern was as follows; outer primaries black, inner wing coverts and some secondaries brown, and the remainder of the wing white. Tail was forked, white, and had a black terminal band. The birds underparts were white. In flight, the birds wings seemed proportionately longer and more pointed than a Franklin's Gull.

Similar species and how eliminated: All other gulls eliminated combination of wing pattern and slightly forked tail with black terminal band.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent-sun behind me and the sky mostly cloudy. Estimated viewing distance was 60-70 yards at closest. I used a Bushnell 25x spotting scope and Nikon 8 x 23 binoculars.

Previous experience with species: The only other Sabine's Gull I've ever seen was the juvenile at Saylorville in Nov 1983

References consulted: NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made? immediately

How long before this form was completed? 11 hours