

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/24/00

Sabine's Gull

7 Sep 1997

Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co., IA

*Bery Engebretsen

IBL 68:13, 86

Record Number: 97-42

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Bery Engebretsen, 12825 NW 127th Ct, DesMoines 50325 [2/15/98]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:13

Records Committee: IBL 68:86

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Juvenile.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

97-42

What species? Sabines Gull How many? 1

Location? Saylorville - sandpiper Beach

Type of Habitat? lake shore

When? date(s): 9/7/97 time: 09:15 to 09:25

Who? your name and address: Bery Engbretson Dsm, IA

Others with you: —

Others before or after you: —

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Small gull, walking on shore, first noticed brownish gray back that was somewhat mottled, unlike uniform gray of similar sized Franklins. Brown gray extended up onto head without much suggestion of a hood. Underparts white, folded wings appeared black. Bill uniform dark, legs gray. Bird flew a few yards, revealing dramatic Sabines pattern of black outer primaries & greater wing coverts, gray-brown on shoulder, and white triangle in between. Tail was white with black band near tip.

The bird flew shortly, out over lake & began to spiral upward. Reason - a Peregrine in hot pursuit. By circling rapidly upward the Peregrine could not get above it to get into high powered stoop, and eventually gave up.

Last seen at high altitude heading south.

Similar species; how eliminated:

1. H. h. h. in this plumage would have black collar, wing pattern different

Franklins, Laughing have much different wing pattern

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? —

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Bright overcast, 10-20 yds

Previous experience with species and similar ones: 2 other juvenile stragglers at Saylorville

References and persons consulted before writing description: NG

How long before field notes made? in field this form completed? same day

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).