

Sabine's Gull

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: Field marks look good for a Juvenile Sabine's Gull. Could see the pied wing patterns and the dark M when in flight.

CM2: Yes. This was a well-documented bird, seen by many observers, including myself. The descriptions and photos are clearly of a juvenile Sabine's Gull.

CM3: Gulls are a difficult complex to analyze. Fortunately in this case, the bird was very well documented by multiple, skilled observers. The combination of written details and excellent photographs leave no doubt as to the identification. I saw this bird myself on multiple occasions during its short stay. Provenance is not a concern. The pattern of vagrancy fits, especially during this time frame when a number of wandering birds were seen in unusual areas, likely due to weather occurrences. Therefore, a vote FOR this record is warranted.

CM4: Indisputable photographic evidence.

CM5: I vote to include the Marion County sighting of the Sabine's Gull record for official state list. This is an excellent report with supporting photographs from multiple photographers that provide evidence to conclusively include the record. The observation was well documented and the report was reviewed by Joey Herron prior to submission. The photographs are unmistakably a Sabine's Gull and the written documentation supports the photographic evidence. This gull was observed by many observers over the course of its stay at Prickett's Fort including this reviewer. This report meets the standards set by the by-laws for inclusion on the Official State List.

CM6: Great bird. Great photos!

CM7: The viewer of this bird is a novice to birding, but provided three nice photos of the bird in question. This bird was also seen when Hurricane Florence was making landfall in the Carolinas and creating strong north-to-south wind patterns. The bird is clearly a juvenile/non-breeding gull. The photo showing the pale pinkish-gray legs with the short, dark, straight bill are supportive of a Sabine's Gull. The photo of the bird in flight also shows a bit of the tail, though at a poor angle, where the tail is generally pale in color with a dark band that has a thin, white terminal line. This dark band with terminal line is also supportive of a juvenile Sabines' Gull. The mottled flight and back feathers indicate this bird is a juvenile Sabine's Gull. I have seen Sabine's Gull in the Great Lakes region on several occasions, one of which was in this same juvenile plumage while the others were in the Non-breeding adult plumage.