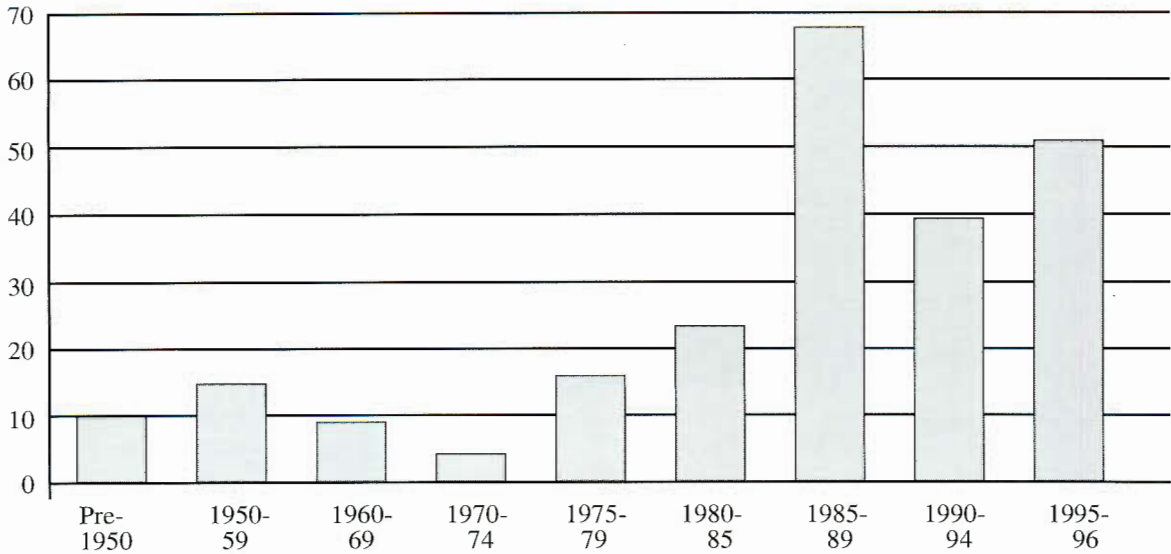


Figure I. The number of Sabine's Gulls observed in the Middlewestern Prairie Region 1873-1996. A spectacular increase in the observation rate occurred in the late 1980s. Note that the time intervals are not all of equal duration.



The Fall Flight

The Sabine's Gull migration is relegated to the months of September, October, and November. Other than the famous wintering Ohio bird, only six Sabine's Gulls have been recorded outside this three-month interval: two birds in December plus singletons in January, April, July, and August. Figure II, which shows the temporal distribution of Sabine's Gulls during the fall flight, reveals that migration begins abruptly in mid-September and peaks before the end of the month. The flight then gradually tails off into December.

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Figure II. Sabine's Gull numbers per 10-day interval during the fall migration period. Virtually all records are restricted to September, October, and November. The migration peak occurs in the last third of September.

