

Addendum

As this article approached completion in September 1997, it became apparent that an extraordinary Sabine's Gull flight was underway. Every Rare Bird Alert in the country seem to include Sabine's Gulls and even an international report filtered in; an exceptional movement off the British Isles was posted on the World Wide Web. Accordingly, the decision was made to delay publication until after the fall season. In retrospect this proved to be a wise choice as a record 41 Sabine's Gulls were logged in the Middlewestern Prairie Region during fall 1997. This addendum summarizes details of the outstanding 1997-98 flight.

Amazingly, the vanguard of the Region's Sabine's Gull migration appeared in mid-summer; Lee Schoenewe discovered a bird, believed to be in second-alternate plumage, at Kettleson Wildlife Management Area, Iowa on 8 July. This overzealous Sabine's (only the Region's second July record) was soon followed by an immature, seen in Decatur on 19 August by Myrna Deaton, which provided only the second August record.

As anticipated, Sabine's Gull activity increased substantially in September. On 3 September, Jeff McCoy identified an immature at Miller Beach, to establish a record early arrival date for Indiana. Throughout September, Miller Beach was the Region's Sabine's Gull "hot spot" with an unprecedented number of reports that included eight birds on 10 September (Dave Mandell, Bob Hughes, and John White). The latter count provided an all-time daily high for Indiana. Away from Lake Michi-

gan the season's best tally was logged at Carlyle Lake, where Dan Kassebaum counted five on 5 October. The following tabulation summarizes the Region's 1997 Sabine's Gull flight.

State	Number observed	Comment
Indiana	23	All at Miller Beach in September
Illinois	14	13 inland and one on Lake Michigan
Iowa	2	Saylorville & Coralville Reservoirs
Ohio	2	Both on Lake Erie

The record 1997 migration differed somewhat from the established pattern as a majority of the Sabine's Gulls (26) appeared on the Great Lakes. Temporal distribution of the season's 41 birds was as follows: July-1, August-1, September-29, and October-10. The last Sabine's Gull was reported on 25 October at Huron, Ohio (Joe Hammond fide Nick Barber). Of the aged birds, 14 were immatures, one was adult, and one was in first-year plumage.

The 1997 Sabine's Gull flight teaches us that although we have acquired much knowledge about the passage of these elegant gulls through the Midwest, we clearly have more to learn.

Acknowledgments

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