

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Sabine's Gull crosses North America on its long migration between the Arctic and the Southern Hemisphere, but it seldom stops inland. Off San Diego County, it is uncommon to fairly common on the ocean out of sight of land and is rarely seen from shore.

Migration: In spring, Sabine's Gull is recorded in San Diego County from 23 April to 3 June, with up to 35 between San Diego and San Clemente Island 8 May 1976 (AB 30:891, 1976). The only records onshore in spring are of one on San Diego Bay 23 April 1908 (CAS 11542), one at Silver Strand State Beach (T9) 29 May 1962 (AFN 16:447, 1962), and one at Del Mar (M7) 2 June 1983 (D. Delaney, AB 37:1027, 1983).

In fall, Sabine's Gull occurs mainly from 11 July to October, with up to 100 between San Diego and San Clemente Island 4 September 1965 and 3 September 1967 (G. McCaskie, AFN 22:90, 1968). Exceptionally late were one off San Diego 22 November 1969 (J. L. Dunn) and one at La Jolla (P7) 6 December 1999 (G. McCaskie,



Photo by Richard E. Webster

NAB 53:209, 1999). Though still rare, the species is seen from shore more frequently in fall than in spring. San Diego County's two inland records are in fall, of a juvenile "about 32 miles east of the Pacific" 10 October 1920 (Lee 1921) and one at Lake Morena (T21) 2 October 1988 (B. McCausland, AB 43:168, 1989).