

**Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini* (4, 236, 327).

(Breeds in Arctic with circumpolar distribution through northern most North America and Eurasia. Winters off western South America and south-west Africa).

**1822**

One: First-winter. Shot. Belfast Lough, County Down/Antrim, 18th September. *Deane* 1954. **This was the first record of the species in Britain and Ireland.**

**1834**

One: Obtained. Claremont, Whitehouse, Belfast Lough, County Antrim, 15th September. *Deane* 1954.

**1867**

One: Immature. Killed. Bangor, County Down, mid-October. *Deane* 1954.

**1932**

One: River Lagan, Co. Down/Antrim, 1st November. *Deane* 1954.

**1936**

Two: Rathlin Island, County Antrim, 30th July. *Deane* 1954.

**1958**

One: Portrush, County Antrim, 1st September (R. Milliken). *Ruttledge* 1959.

One: Adult. Belfast Lough, County Down, 20th August (Tom Ennis, M.C. Gray, R.M. McKay *et al.*). *Ruttledge* 1959.

**1959**

One: Ballycastle, County Antrim, 11th April (R. Chambers, A. Dawson, Joe Furphy). *Ruttledge* 1960.

One: Kinnegar, Holywood, County Down, 19th August (M.C. Gray). *Ruttledge* 1960.

**1960**

One: Castlerock, County Londonderry, 3rd August (Hill Dick, R.W. Milliken).

*IBR* 8: 7.

One: Adult. Ards Peninsula, County Down, 4th December (W.D. Finlay). *IBR* 8: 7.

**1961**

One: Adult. St. John's Point, Killough, County Down, 24th September (Dave Branagh, D.W. Leroux, N. Orr, J.T. Penny, S. Penny, R.A.O. Wolsey). *IBR* 8: 7

Two: Immatures. Rathlin Island, County Antrim, 29th September (R.W. Milliken *et al.*). *IBR* 8: 7

**1964**

One: Adult. Duncrue Street, Belfast Lough, Belfast, County Antrim, 3rd September (P.S. Watson). *IBR* 12: 12.

**1970**

Two: Adults. Portrush, County Antrim, 2nd - 4th September (S.P. Harris, D.S. Melville *et al.*). *IBR* 18: 21.

**1977**

One: Lough Beg NNR, County Londonderry, 11th September. *NIBRC* 101/1977. Not published in Irish Bird Report.

One: Immature. Portstewart, County Londonderry, 1st September (Raymond Hume). *Preston* 1978.

Three: Two adults and one immature. Off the north County Antrim coast, 14th September (A. McWilliams). *Preston* 1978.

**1978**

Three: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; one 15th September with two adults on 27th September (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *Preston* 1980.

One: Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 17th September (R.J. Brown, Tom Ennis, R.D. Woods *et al.*). *Preston* 1980. Photo *INJ* 19: 429.

**1979**

Two: Portrush, County Antrim; one adult 20th September with an immature on 21st September (P.S. Watson). *Preston* 1981.

## 1980

Three: Two adults and one immature. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim, 12th September (Doug Radford, Philip Watson). *NIBR* 1982.

## 1982

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim, 30th August (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBRC* 1987.

## 1983

One: Adult. At sea off Portrush, 27th August (Dennis Weir *et al.*). *NIBRC* 1987.

Five: Ramore Head Portrush, County Antrim; one adult, 3rd September (Derek Charles, Raymond Hume, Davy Hunter, Stephen Foster *et al.*), three 4th September (D. Mouncey) with a single on 6th September (Dave Allen). *NIBRC* 1987.

## 1984

Two: Ramore Head Portrush, County Antrim; single juveniles on 9th September (Eamon MacLochlainn, Mervyn Patterson) and 14th September (Jim Fitzharris, Jim Dowdall *et al.*). *NIBRC* 1987.

One: Juvenile. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 10th September (Dennis Weir). *NIBRC* 1987.

One: Juvenile. Orlock Point, Groomsport, County Down, 15th September (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBRC* 1987.

## 1985

Five: Ramore Head Portrush, County Antrim; two, one adult and one juvenile 1st September (Anthony McGeehan, Jim Nicholl *et al.*) with three, one adult and two juveniles on 15th September (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBRC* 1987.

One: Adult. Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, County Down, 14th September (Tony Marr). *NIBRC* 1987.

## 1987

51: Mostly juveniles. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim, 13th to 25th September (Martin Gray, Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 1992.

*NIBA* 1992 also publishes in addition to above:

Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim:

One: Juvenile. 13th September. *NIBA* 1992. Not published in Irish Bird Report.

One: Adult. 15th September (M. Bradley, I. Irvine). *NIBA* 1992.

Six: Juveniles. 24th September *NIBA* 1992. Not published in Irish Bird Report.

## 1988

12: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; two juveniles 1st September, nine 13th September with an adult on 28th September. *NIBA* 1992. None published in Irish Bird Report.

Two: Juveniles. St John's Point, Killough, County Down, 1st September. *NIBA* 1992. Not published in Irish Bird Report.

## 1989

Five: Juveniles. Ramore Head Portrush, County Antrim; two 27th August, one 3rd September and two 6th October. *NIBA* 1992. None published in Irish Bird Report.

## 1990

Six: Ramore Head Portrush, County Antrim; two, one juvenile and one adult 3rd September (Anthony McGeehan), two, one adult and one juvenile 6th September (Stuart McKee). *NIBA* 1992/*NIBA* 1993, with two juveniles on 17th September (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *NIBA* 1992.

## 1991

One: Adult. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 3rd September. *NIBA* 1993.

One: Juvenile. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim, 5th October *NIBA* 1993.

## 1992

Seven: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; one adult 11th - 13th September, three adults 14th September, two one adult and one juvenile 15th September with a juvenile on 19th September. *NIBA* 1993.

### 1993

Three: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; single adults on 15th August (Gerard McGeehan). *NIBA* 1994. Not in Irish Bird Report, 21st August (David Steele). *Irish Birds* 1994 and 23rd August (David Steele). *Irish Birds* 1994.

### 1994

One: Adult. Rathlin West, about 7.5 miles at sea off Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim, 20th August (George Gordon). *NIBA* 1996.

Eight: Juveniles. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim, 11th September (David Steele). *NIBA* 1996.

One: Adult. Copeland Bird Observatory, Light House Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 29th August (Kerry Leonard). *NIBA* 1996.

### 1995

23: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; eight, five adults and three juveniles 25th August (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*), two 27th August, one juvenile 2nd September (David Knight), six juveniles 24th September (Davy Hunter *et al.*), one juvenile 26th September (Stephen Foster *et al.*), three juvenile 27th September (David Steele *et al.*) and two juveniles on the 28th September (Geoff Campbell). *NIBA* 1997.

One: Juvenile. Castle Espie Pools, Castle Espie WWT, Comber, County Down, 28th August (Clive Mellon). *NIBA* 1997.

Two: Copeland Bird Observatory, Light House Island, Copeland Islands, County Down; single juveniles on 17th and 28th October (Colin Guy). *NIBA* 1997. Note change of date from *NIBA* 1997.

### 1996

Seven: One adult and six juveniles. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; one adult in summer plumage, 2nd August (Geoff Campbell). *Charles and Crory* 2019, one juvenile 10th September (Matthew Tickner). *Charles and Crory* 2019, one juvenile 1st October, three juveniles 5th October [Note change of date from *NIBA* 1998] with a juvenile on 16th October (Anthony McGeehan, David Steele) all *NIBA* 1998.

One: Adult. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 26th August (Dennis Weir, David Steele). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Grey Point, Belfast Lough, Crawfordsburn, County Down, 6th September (Anthony McGeehan, Ken Douglas). *NIBA* 1998.

One: Adult. Black Arch, Larne, County Antrim, 12th September (Davy Hunter) *NIBA* 1998.

Three: Copeland Bird Observatory, Light House Island, Copeland Islands, County Down; single juveniles on 15th September (Colin Guy) and 12th and 13th October (Colin Guy, Kerry Leonard). *NIBA* 1998.

### 1997

Five: St John's Point, Killough, County Down; one adult 27th August (Dennis Weir), two, one adult and one juvenile 4th September (Walter Veale, M. Stevenson) with two, one adult and one juvenile 20th September (Chris Murphy). *NIBA* 1999.

One: Observed from the cross-channel ferry nine miles out of Belfast, County Antrim, 2nd September (D. Carter). *NIBA* 1999.

15: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; one juvenile 6th September (Seamus Burns, M. Stevenson), nine, one adult and eight juveniles 7th September (Anthony McGeehan, Matthew Tickner), two, one adult and one juvenile 9th September (Matthew Tickner, Geoff Campbell), two juveniles 13th September (David Steele, George Gordon *et al.*) with an adult on 10th October (Anthony McGeehan, Ken Douglas). *NIBA* 1999.

Four: Grey Point, Belfast Lough, Crawfordsburn, County Down; one juvenile 8th September (Anthony McGeehan, M. Stevenson), two juveniles 18th September (Ken Douglas) with an adult on 22nd September (Eric Randall). *NIBA* 1999.

Seven: Copeland Bird Observatory, Light House Island, Copeland Islands, County Down; five, one adult and four juveniles 13th September with two juveniles on 14th September (Colin Guy, Kerry Leonard). *NIBA* 1999.

## 1998

Six: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; one adult 15th August (Matthew Tickner, Ed O'Hara), one juvenile 17th August (Christopher Veale), two adults 21st August (Stephen Foster *et al.*), one adult 10th September (Walter Veale) and a juvenile on 11th September (Matthew Tickner). *NIBA 2000* [note changes to *NIBA 2000*], three juveniles 12th September (Orcilla Hadrick, Dave Hadrick, Richard Hunter) one juvenile was observed by Orcilla Hadrick and Dave Hadrick between 8.45 am and 10am and two juveniles were observed by Richard Hunter between 10am and 2pm. *Charles and Crory 2019*.  
One: Adult. Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down, 17th August (Chris Murphy). *NIBA 2000*.

One: Juvenile. Magilligan Point, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 10th October (Davy Hunter). *NIBA 2000*.

Two: Juveniles. St John's Point, Killough, County Down, 16th October (M. Stevenson). *NIBA 2000*.

One: Juvenile. Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, County Down, 17th September (Kerry Leonard). *NIBA 2000*.

## 1999

One: Adult. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim, 15th August. *NIBA 2001*.

One: Adult. North Channel, observed from Larne to Stranraer Ferry, 25th August. *NIBA 2001*.

## 2000

Three: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; single juveniles, 6th September (Anthony McGeehan), 12th September (Laurence Morgan) and 12th October (Matthew Tickner). *NIBA 2002*.

## 2001

85: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; two juveniles 6th September (David Steele), eight juveniles 8th September (Matthew Tickner, J. Dick), two juveniles 9th September (Garry Armstrong), one adult 10th September (Matthew Tickner), two juveniles 12th September (Matthew Tickner *et al.*), 39 juveniles 13th September (David Steele), 22 juveniles 15th September (Matthew Tickner, Laurence Morgan, George Gordon *et al.*), eight juveniles 16th September (Eric Randall, Matthew Tickner *et al.*) with a juvenile on 8th October (Matthew Tickner). *NIBA 2003*.

## 2002

One: First year, Groomsport, County Down, 25th August - 18th November. The bird was first observed at Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, County Down on the 25th August and it remained on and off at Briggs Rocks to 8th October (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). The bird day tripped to Sandeell Bay, 1.5km east of Groomsport, County Down also on the 25th August (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*) and Orlock Point, Groomsport, County Down the next day (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). It then was recorded at Groomsport from 28th September - 9th October (George Gordon, Colin Guy *et al.*) and again there on 17th and 18th November (Shane Wolseley). The final sighting was off Donaghadee Harbour, Donaghadee, County Down on the 1st December (M. Watts). *Charles and Crory et al.*

One: First-year. Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down, 4th September (David Nixon, Joe Lamont). *NIBA 2004*

One: Juvenile. Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 5th October (Kerry Leonard). *NIBA 2004*.

## 2003

One: Adult. Copeland Bird Observatory, Light House Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 17th May (Willie McDowell). *NIBA 2006*.

18: Ramore Head, Portrush; one 19th August (Walter Veale, Garry Armstrong), two juveniles 22nd August (Stuart McKee), one juvenile 29th August (David Steele), seven juveniles 22nd September (Davy Hunter *et al.*), one juvenile 23rd September (David Steele), three juveniles 26th September (Laurence Morgan *et al.*), one juvenile 3rd October (David Steele) with two, one adult and one juvenile 4th October (Garry Armstrong *et al.*). *NIBA 2006*, Note change from *NIBA 2006*.

One: Portstewart Point. Portstewart, County Londonderry, 23rd September (Richard Gray). *NIBA 2006*. Note change from *NIBA 2006*.

Three: Adults. Ballycastle Harbour, Ballycastle, County Antrim, 6th October (Colin Guy). *NIBA 2006*.

## 2004

18: 15 juveniles and three adults. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim on six dates between 25th July and 7th October with a single day maximum of six on 6th October. *NIBA 2006*.

Two: Portstewart, County Londonderry, 14th September. *NIBA 2006*.

One: Juvenile. Victoria Chanel, Belfast Lough, Belfast, County Down. *NIBA 2006*.

One: Juvenile. Grey Point, Belfast Lough, Crawfordsburn, County Down, 14th September. *NIBA 2006*.

## 2005

Three: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; one adult 19th August (Geoff Campbell) with two juveniles on 23rd September (Colin Guy, Laurence Morgan *et al.*). *NIBA 2008a*.

One: Juvenile. Castlerock, County Londonderry, 23rd September (Willie McDowell). *NIBA 2008a*.

## 2006

One: St Johns Point, Killough, County Down, 13th September (Dennis Weir). *NIBA 2008a*.

## 2007

26: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim. 18 juveniles 14th September, one adult 16th September, two juveniles 17th September, two juveniles 24th September with three juveniles 25th September (Flightline). *NIBA 2008b*.

One: Lough Beg NNR, County Londonderry, 25th September (David Steele). *NIBA 2008b*.

One: Juvenile. Larne, County Antrim, 4th October (Flightline). *NIBA 2008b*.

One: Juvenile. Copeland Bird Observatory, Light House Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 7th October (Flightline). *NIBA 2008b*.

## 2008

One: Kearney, Outer Ards Peninsula, County Down, 31st July (Flightline). *NIBA 2008b*.

One: Juvenile. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 25th August (Flightline). *NIBA 2008b*.

One: Juvenile. Whitehead, County Antrim, 12th September (Flightline). *NIBA 2008b*.

Three: Juveniles. Larne-Cairnryan ferry, County Antrim, 30th September (Flightline). *NIBA 2008b*.

## 2009

Five: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; one adult 28th August, three juveniles 4th September and one 3rd October (David Steele *et al.*). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

One: Juvenile. Rathlin Island, County Antrim, 11th October (Geoff Campbell). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

## 2010

One: Off the Lighthouse, Rathlin Island, County Antrim, 3rd April (Chris Sturgeon). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

13: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; six [three, in the morning and three, in the afternoon] 14th September, six [three adult and three juveniles] 15th September and one adult 16th September (Matthew Tickner, Ronald Surgenor *et al.*). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

## 2011

38: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; five 6th September, two juveniles 14th September, eighteen 18th September, four 6th October, eight 7th October with an adult on 18th October (Ronald Surgenor, Dermot Hughes, Matthew Tickner, Colin Guy *et al.*). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

Three: St John's Point, Killough, County Down; two, one adult and one juvenile, 10th September with a juvenile on 22nd October (Gerrard McGeehan, Allen Gillespie, Jason Starbuck, Scott Young *et al.*). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

One: Juvenile. Barr Mouth, Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 13th September (Tim Murphy). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

One: Juvenile. Carnlough Harbour, Carnlough, County Antrim, 20th September (Colin Guy). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

One: Juvenile. Killough, County Down, 22nd October (Jason Starbuck, Scott Young *et al.*). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

One: Juvenile. Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula, County Down, 23rd October (Richard Weyl). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

One: Juvenile. Kearney, Outer Ards Peninsula, County Down, 12th November (Richard Weyl). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

One: First-winter. Quintin Bay, Outer Ards Peninsula, County Down, 14th November (Hugh Thurgate). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

## 2012

Five: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; one juvenile 25th August, two adults 11th September and two adults 12th September (Ed O'Hara, Ken Perry, Peter Robinson, Colin Guy, Hill Dick *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 8th September (Chris Acheson). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2013

One: Adult. Flying east. Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, County Down, 25th March (Colin Guy). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

Six: Ramore Head, Portrush County Antrim; one adult 18th August, two [one juvenile and one adult] 16th September, two juveniles 9th October and one juvenile on 10th October (Neal Warnock, Tom Ennis, Ray Bennett, Davy Hunter, Colin Guy, Matthew Tickner). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

Three: Two adults and one first-summer. At sea, five miles NE of Portrush, County Antrim, 15th August (Ronald Surgenor). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Juvenile. Feeding close to the shoreline. Magilligan Strand, Lough Foyle, Londonderry, 7th September (Neal Warnock). *Charles and Crory* 2019.



At sea, five miles NE of Portrush, County Antrim, 15th August 2013. Photo courtesy of Ronald Surgenor.

## 2014

Two: Ramore Head, Portrush County Antrim; one adult 17th August and one juvenile 21st October (Neal Warnock, Colin Guy). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Juvenile. Between Rue Point and Church Bay, observed from Ballycastle to Rathlin Island Ferry, Rathlin Island, County Antrim, 21st September (Colin Guy). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: At sea. Between Ballycastle and Portpatrick, Scotland, 28th September (Billy Miskelly). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2015

One: Adult. Watched at close range for fifteen minutes. Burial Island, Portavogie, Outer Ards Peninsula, County Down, 18th February (Billy Miskelly). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2016

### Antrim

Two: Juveniles. Bengore Head, Dunseverick, County Antrim, 29th September (Stephen Foster). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Juvenile. St Johns Point, Killough, County Down, 16th October (Tim Murphy, Chris Murphy). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim, 18th October (Neal Warnock). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2017

### Antrim

14: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; one juvenile 8th September, one juvenile 9th September, one adult 11th September, eight 2nd October, one 5th October and three 22nd October (Colin Guy, Derek Charles, Gerard McGeehan, Shirley Dunlop Ian Dickey *et al.*). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

One: Adult. Marconi's Cottage, Ballycastle, County Antrim, 9th September (Colin Guy). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

Two: Adults. Rathlin Island, County Antrim, 11th September (Ric Else, Hazel Watson). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

One: Juvenile. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 15th - 16th September (Hill Dick, Derek McIntyre *et al.*). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

One: Adult. Ballycastle, County Antrim. 21st October (Neal Warnock). *Charles and Crory 2019*.



Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* Bann Estuary, Londonderry, 16th September 2017. Photo courtesy of Mervyn Campbell.

## 2018

One: Juvenile. Rathlin Island, County Antrim, 11th September (Ric Else, Hazel Watson). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

Three: Juveniles. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim, 2nd October (Neal Warnock). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

## 2019

Three: Rathlin, County Antrim; one Rue Point, 15th August (Ric Else, Hazel Watson), one juvenile on 28th September (Wilton Farrelly) with another juvenile, 19th October (Ric Else, Hazel Watson).

23: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim; 12 4th September (Denis Weir, Matthew Tickner *et al.*), nine 6th September (Matthew Tickner *et al.*) and two juveniles 7th September (Billy Miskelly).

One: Juvenile, Magilligan, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 6th September (Mervyn Campbell).

One: Juvenile Grey Point, Belfast Lough, County Down, 13th – 15th September (Ronald Surgenor *et al.*).