

## **Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini* (4, 236, 299).

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

### **Published records:**

#### **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 to 4th September (S.P. Harris, D.S. Melville *et al.*). *IBR* 18: 21.

#### **1977**

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

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

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 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 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, three 4th September and one 6th September (Derek Charles, Raymond Hume, Davy Hunter, Stephen Foster, D. Mouncey, Dave Allen *et al.*). *NIBRC* 1987.

**1984**

Two: Ramore Head Portrush, County Antrim. Single juveniles on 9th and 14th September (Eamon MacLochlainn, Mervyn Patterson, 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 with three, one adult and two juveniles 15th September (Anthony McGeehan, Jim Nicholl *et al.*). *NIBRC* 1987.

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

**1987**

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

**1988**

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

**1990**

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

**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 to 13th September, three adults 14th September, two, one adult and one juvenile 15th September with a juvenile on 19th September. *NIBA* 1993.

**1993**

Three adults. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim. Adults observed on 15th, 21st and 23rd August (Gerard McGeehan, David Steele). *Irish Birds* 1994 / *NIBA* 1994. The 15th August sighting was not published in Irish Bird Report.

**1994**

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

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

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

**1995**

20: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim. Eight, five adults and three juveniles 25th August, two 27th August, one juvenile 2nd September, six juveniles 24th September, one Juvenile 26th September, three juveniles 27th September with two juveniles on 28th September (Anthony

McGeehan, David Knight, Davy Hunter, Stephen Foster, David Steele, Geoff Campbell *et al.*). *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.

#### **1996**

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

Five: Juveniles. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim. 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). *NIBA* 1998.

#### **1997**

Five: St John's Point, Killough, County Down. One adult 27th August, two one adult and one juvenile 4th September with two, one adult and one juvenile 20th September (Dennis Weir, Walter Veale, M. Stevenson *et al.*). *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, nine, one adult and eight juveniles 7th September, two, one adult and one juvenile 9th September, two juveniles 13th September with an adult on 10th October (Seamus Burns, M. Stevenson, Anthony McGeehan, Matthew Tickner, Geoff Campbell, David Steele, George Gordon, Ken Douglas *et al.*). *NIBA* 1999.

Four: Grey Point, Belfast Lough, Crawfordsburn, County Down. One juvenile 8th September, two juveniles 18th September with an adult on 22nd September (Anthony McGeehan, M. Stevenson, Ken Douglas, 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, one juvenile 17th August, two adults 21st August, one adult 10th September, three juveniles, 12th September and one juvenile 11th September (Matthew Tickner, Ed O'Hara, Christopher Veale, Walter Veale, Stephen Foster, Orcilla Hadrick, Dave Hadrick *et al.*). *NIBA* 2000. Note changes to *NIBA* 2000.

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: Juveniles. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim. Singles observed on 6th September, 12th September and 12th October (Anthony McGeehan, Laurence Morgan, Matthew Tickner). *NIBA* 2002.

#### **2001**

85, 84 juveniles and one adult, Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim. Two juveniles 6th September, eight juveniles 16th September, two juveniles 9th September, one adult 10th September, two juveniles 12th September, 39 juveniles 13th September, 22 juveniles 15th September, eight juveniles 16th September and a single juvenile on 8th October (David Steele, Mathew Tickner, J. Dick, Eric Randall, Laurence Morgan, George Gordon *et al.*). *NIBA* 2003.

**2002**

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, two juveniles 22nd August, one juvenile 29th August, seven juveniles 22nd September, one juvenile 23rd September, three juveniles 26th September, one juvenile 3rd October and two one adult and one juvenile 4th October (Walter Veale, David Steele, Davy Hunter, Laurence Morgan *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006. Note changes to *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 with two juveniles on 23rd September (Geoff Campbell, 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.

## Unpublished records:

### 1996

Two: Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim. One adult in summer plumage 2nd August with a juvenile on 10th September (Geoff Campbell, Matthew Tickner).

One: Adult. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 26th August (Dennis Weir, David Steele).

### 2009

#### Antrim

Five: Ramore Head, Portrush. One adult 28th August, three juveniles 4th September and one 3rd October (David Steele *et al.*).

One: Juvenile. Rathlin Island, 11th October (Geoff Campbell).

### 2010

#### Antrim

One: Off the Lighthouse, Rathlin Island, 3rd April (Chris Sturgeon).

13: Ramore Head, Portrush. 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.*).

### 2011

#### Antrim

38: Ramore Head, Portrush. Five 6th September, two juveniles 14th September, 18 18th September, four 6th October, eight 7th October with an adult on 18th October (Ronald Surgenor, Dermot Hughes, Matthew Tickner, Colin Guy *et al.*).

One: Juvenile. Carnlough Harbour, 20th September (Colin Guy).

#### Down

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

One: Juvenile. Killough, 22nd October (Jason Starbuck, Scott Young *et al.*).

One: Juvenile, Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula, 23rd October (Richard Weyl).

One: Juvenile. Kearney, Outer Ards Peninsula, 12th November (Richard Weyl).

One: First-winter. Quintin Bay, Outer Ards Peninsula, 14th November (Hugh Thurgate).

#### Londonderry

One: Juvenile. Barr Mouth, Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 13th September (Tim Murphy).

### 2012

#### Antrim

Five: Ramore Head, Portrush. 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.*).

#### Down

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, 8th September (Chris Acheson).

### 2013

#### Antrim

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

Six: Ramore Head, Portrush. One adult 18th August, two one juvenile and one adult 16th September, two juveniles 9th October with a juvenile on 10th October (Neal Warnock, Tom Ennis, Ray Bennett, Davy Hunter, Colin Guy, Matthew Tickner).

#### Down

One: Adult. Flying east. Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 25th March (Colin Guy).

#### Londonderry

One: Juvenile. Feeding close to the shoreline. Magilligan Strand, Lough Foyle, 7th September (Neal Warnock).

### 2014

#### Antrim

Two: Ramore Head, Portrush. One adult 17th August and one juvenile 21st October (Neal Warnock, Colin Guy).

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

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

**2015**

**Down**

One: Adult. Watched at close range for fifteen minutes. Burial Island, Outer Ards Peninsula, 18th February (Billy Miskelly).

**2016**

**Antrim**

Two: Juveniles. Bengore Head, Dunseverick, 29th September (Stephen Foster).

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 18th October (Neal Warnock).

**Down**

One: Juvenile. St Johns Point, Killough, 16th October (Tim Murphy, Chris Murphy).

**2017**

**Antrim**

14: Ramore Head, Portrush. 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.*).

One: Adult. Marconi's Cottage, Ballycastle, 9th September (Colin Guy).

Two: Adults. Rathlin Island, 11th September (Ric Else, Hazel Watson).

One: Adult. Ballycastle. 21st October (Neal Warnock).

**Londonderry**

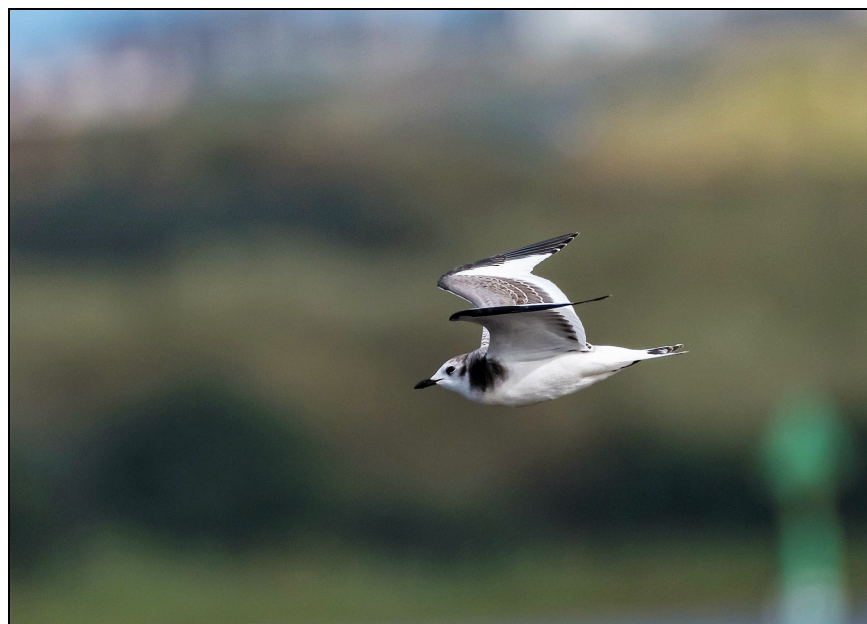
One: Juvenile. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 15th to 16th September (Hill Dick, Derek McIntyre *et al.*).

**2018**

**Antrim**

One: Juvenile. Rathlin Island, 11th September (Ric Else, Hazel Watson).

Three: Juveniles. Ramore Head, Portrush, 2nd October (Neal Warnock).



Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*,

Bann Estuary, Londonderry, 16th September 2017. Picture courtesy of Mervyn Campbell.