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January 1979

## a Sabine's Gull at the Dry Tortugas, Florida

Florida Field Naturalist

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### Recommended Citation

Florida Field Naturalist (1979) "a Sabine's Gull at the Dry Tortugas, Florida," *Florida Field Naturalist*: Vol. 7 : Iss. 2 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/ffn/vol7/iss2/8>

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**A Sabine's Gull at the Dry Tortugas, Florida.**—On 8 August 1978 at 1630 I was photographing terns on the north coaling dock at Fort Jefferson, Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, when I watched a summer-plumaged adult Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) alight on the dock among the Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) and Royal (*Sterna maximus*) terns (Fig. 1). I was able to confirm my identification of the gull by consulting the field guides I had with me. I watched the bird for 15 minutes until it flew towards nearby Bush Key. While on the coaling dock, the gull was pecked at by the nearby terns and even after the gull flew to a piling it was soon displaced by two Noddy Terns, and then flew off.



Fig. 1. Sabine's Gull at Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, 8 August 1978.

I notified other park service personnel at the Fort but no one else observed the gull. There are four other Florida records of Sabine's Gull (23 Sept.-4 Nov., Langridge 1979, Fla. Field Nat. 7: 27) all from the Atlantic coast. This is the first sight record of the Sabine's Gull from the Dry Tortugas and six weeks earlier than the earliest previous record for Florida.—MARK R. COLLIE, 1920 E. Columbia St., Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103.

**A Band-tailed Pigeon recovery in Florida.**—While reviewing computer printouts of all birds banded or recovered in Florida, I discovered the record of a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*). Subsequent investigation of records from the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), Laurel, Maryland, revealed that it was banded in northwest Oregon (lat. 45°20' long. 122°40') on 15 May 1966. It was shot near Bonifay, Holmes County, Florida, in December 1967 by a hunter who mailed the band (#066528422) to the BBL with an accompanying letter.

The evidence accumulated indicates that this was a wild bird and the species should be added to the state list. The following information supports the validity of the record. 1. The bander, James Cromwell, employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, banded at least 2363 Band-tailed Pigeons during the years 1965-1968 (Otis Swisher, President, Western Bird Banding Association, pers. comm.). The bird in question was an adult male at the time of banding. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that it was misidentified by such an experienced bander. 2. The hunter who shot the bird wrote that it was a 'pigeon,' and included the actual band in his letter to the BBL. The band is in excellent condition with the numbers clearly legible even on a xerox copy. 3. A letter from the Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, states "Oregon has not traded any Band-tailed Pigeons to any other state," and a letter from the Chief, Bureau of Wildlife Resources, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, states that "there has been no attempt to introduce Band-tailed Pigeons into Florida." 4. There are occurrences of this species in other southeastern states. Imhof (1976, Alabama birds, 2nd ed., University, Ala., Univ. Ala. Press) places the bird on Alabama's hypothetical list because the sole record, based on one lengthy observation, lacks a photograph or specimen. Lowery (1974, Louisiana birds, 3rd rev. ed., Baton Rouge, La., La. State Univ. Press) states that "at least five have been recorded in the state." Four of these were specimens.