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Voor taxonomie, volgorde en naamgeving van vogels in Dutch Birding worden de volgende overzichten aangehouden: *Dutch Birding-vogelnamen* door A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2024, www.dutchavifauna.nl/wpvogelnamen) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Nederlandse en Engelse namen van West-Palearctische vogels); en *IOC world bird list 14.2* door F Gill, D Donsker & P Rasmussen (2024, www.worldbirdnames.org) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Engelse en Nederlandse namen van overige vogels in de wereld; Nederlandse namen door P Vercruijsse en A J van Loon).

Voor (de voorbereiding van) bijzondere publicaties op het gebied van determinatie en/of taxonomie kan het Dutch Birding-fonds aan auteurs een financiële bijdrage leveren (zie Dutch Birding 24: 125, 2001, en www.dutchbirding.nl onder 'Tijdschrift').

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For taxonomy, sequence and nomenclature of birds in Dutch Birding the following lists are used: *Dutch Birding bird names* by A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2024, www.dutchavifauna.nl/wpvogelnamen) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of Western Palearctic birds); and *IOC world bird list 14.2* by F Gill, D Donsker & P Rasmussen (2024, www.worldbirdnames.org) (taxonomy and scientific, English and Dutch names of remaining birds of the world; Dutch names by P Vercruijsse and A J van Loon).

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Sabine's Gull at lake Kerkini, Greece, in October 2023

On 2 October 2023, during a birdwatching trip to lake Kerkini in north-eastern Greece, an adult Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* still largely in adult summer plumage was discovered by me (Stefan Jansen) and confirmed by other members of a Bartmeise Reisen tour group. The gull was swimming c 150 m from the shore and was feeding on a dead fish. It was repeatedly chased away by numerous Black-headed Gulls *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* and Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* and flew around briefly but always returned to the food source. It appeared to be unringed and vital. During the following days many observers were able to see this bird. On 5 October, it was observed again by me and others and photographed from a boat (plate 588). It still appeared vital and again was feeding on a dead fish. As

proven by photographs from other observers on eBird.org it stayed until at least 8 October. Lake Kerkini is an artificial freshwater reservoir north of Thessaloniki, c 60 km north of the Aegean Sea. It was created in 1932 and has a length of c 14 km and a maximum width of 5.5 km. It is now protected as national park and an important breeding, migration and wintering area for many waterbirds, including endangered species such as Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* and Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*.

Description

SIZE & SHAPE Slightly smaller than nearby Black-headed Gulls. Long primary projection and wing-tip reaching clearly beyond tail-tip at rest. Bill relatively short and delicate. Tail slightly forked.

HEAD Hood slate grey, with several white feathers (presumably moulting). Collar distinctly darker, almost black. Red eye ring only faintly visible.

UPPERPARTS Mantle and scapulars uniform medium grey.

WING Primaries black with very worn white tips. In flight distinctive three-coloured pattern on upperwing with inner coverts grey, secondaries, most of outer coverts and inner primaries white and outer primaries black with white tips.

UNDERPARTS White.

TAIL White.

BARE PARTS Bill black, distal third sharply contrasting yellow. Gape bright red. Leg blackish.

Identification

Sabine's Gull is the only gull species with a dark grey hood, blackish collar, dark bill with yellow tip and distinctive upperwing pattern with grey, white and black and forked tail. Grey-headed Gull *C cirrocephalus* has a very pale grey hood and different wing pattern (Olsen & Larsson 2004, Adriaens et al 2022, van Duivendijk & Guyt 2022).

Distribution and vagrancy

Sabine's Gull breeds in the Arctic across northernmost North America and Eurasia. Siberian and Alaskan birds migrate to western South America, wintering offshore. Birds from eastern Canada and Greenland migrate south-east and winter off south-western African coasts. Autumn storms may drive many birds onto western European coasts. The observation at lake Kerkini represents the first record for Greece. Another was observed on both sides of the borders at lake Ormož in Croatia and Slovenia on 5 October 2023 (Ławicki & van den Berg 2023), representing the first records for these

two countries as well. The first record for the Balkan region was on 15 May 2010 when a second-summer was photographed in Montenegro (Kormann & Stumberger 2013). Further east in the Mediterranean region and Middle East, there have been records in Egypt (one; September 1980); Israel (four; July-August 1989, June 1992, April-May 2009 and June 2022); Jordan (one; July-August 1989, same bird as in Israel); Kuwait (two; July 2015 and June 2019); Oman (one; November 2013); Turkey (one; December 2021 to January 2022); and the United Arab Emirates (two; June-July 1991 and May 1995) (Ławicki & van den Berg 2022, Blair et al 2023; Łukasz Ławicki in litt).

Prado et al (2021) gave an overview of extralimital records worldwide and hypothesised that not all extralimital birds must be considered vagrants in the strict sense of the word (eg, displaced by stormy weather or disorientation), and that some may be individuals exploring new migration routes to reach rich feeding grounds. They stated: 'Based on storm-independent records in the Baltic region in autumn and spring, Olsen & Larsson (2004) and Kormann & Stumberger (2013) hypothesise that Sabine's Gull from Svalbard (Norway) and Siberia (Russia) could migrate through the Baltic Sea and the European mainland, which seems to be a feasible pathway. Therefore, Sabine's Gull could use this migration flyway to reach high productive areas in the Indian Ocean.'

588 Sabine's Gull / Vorkstaartmeeuw *Xema sabini*, adult, lake Kerkini, Central Macedonia, Greece, 5 October 2023 (Stefan Jansen)



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Corrigenda

In the acknowledgements of the paper on melanistic Montagu's Harriers *Circus pygargus* in Europe by Brix & Conradt (*Dutch Birding* 46: 245-250, 2024), it should be

added that the information for Spain and Portugal was made available, respectively, by Beatriz Arrovo Loyez and Joao Gameiro.

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WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting Western Palearctic birds reported mainly from **late September to late November 2024**. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

GEESE TO DUCKS A **Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* was seen near Salalah, Dhofar, Oman, from 15 November. Two long-staying **Lesser White-fronted Geese** *Anser erythropus* reappeared at Eilat, Israel, from 23 October. The second **White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta deglandi* for the Azores was a first-winter female identified from a photograph taken on Flores on 21 December 2022. A male off Bamburgh, Northumberland, from 7 October was the first for England. In October-Novem-

ber, three males were present in Scotland: at Gosford Bay, Lothian, at Lunan Bay, Angus, and at a few sites in Shetland. Another was seen off Inch, Kerry, Ireland. A female was photographed at Hemmeslövsstrand, Halland, Sweden, on 7 November. On 26 May, the first **Stejneger's Scoter** *M. stejnegeri* for Lithuania was photographed at Melnragē. In October, two males were present at Kolka, Talsi, Latvia. An adult male was found at Põõsaspea, Läänemaa, Estonia, on 5 November. An adult male **Black Scoter** *M. americana* stayed at Kuźnica, Pomerania, Poland, from 7 October to at least 19 November. The male **Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria* at Abberton, Essex, England, from 11 November 2023 was again seen from 11 August into November. A male **Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera* photographed at c 17 km east-south-east of Casablanca on 30 May was the second for Morocco, Africa and the WP (*Go-South Bull* 21: 41-42, 2024); the