SABINE'S GULL LARUS SABINI FORAGING IN A SOUTH AFRICAN ESTUARY

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A single Sabine's Gull Larus sabini was seen foraging in the Kleinrivier Lagoon, near Hermanus (34 25S, 19 19E) Cape Province, South Africa on 22 April 1990. The river mouth was closed to the sea at the time and the water was shallow, much of it being less than two metres deep. The bird was watched dipping (sensu Harper et al. 1985) for about ten minutes before it flew off in the direction of the sea about two kilometres distant.

Sabine's Gulls are normally wholly oceanic outside the breeding season and inland occurrence is rare (Cramp & Simmons 1983) so this instance of a bird foraging some distance inland is unusual. I thank R.K. Brooke, D.N. Nettleship and A.J. Williams for their comments.

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