

I called Lori Martin to come help confirm the sighting. It stayed in the same general spot until she arrived. She also agreed as to the identification of the gull. Word of the gull was put on the Carolinabirds e-mail list. Over the next seven days over 60 birders saw the gull. The gull was photographed from a boat by Dwayne Martin and Wayne Forsythe on October 7, 2003, the last day the gull was seen.



Figure 1. Sabine's Gull, 7 October 2003, Lake Hickory. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

## **Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—March 1959**

The March 1959 issue of *The Chat* was the first under the editorship of Charles H. Blake, of Hillsborough, NC, replacing Kay Sisson of Columbia, SC. B. R. Chamberlain reviewed the 1958 Christmas Bird Count in the Carolinas, noting that except for the count of about a half million roosting blackbirds and starlings at Greensboro, the total count of individuals was little better than two-thirds of the previous year's count. The species total was 169; the 1957 count had had 183 species. The difference was attributed to poor birding weather and slightly decreased participation. Eastern Phoebe showed a marked decline from the previous year, from 175 to 47. Eastern Bluebirds declined from 1450 to 961; over one-third of the 1958 bluebirds were on the Greensboro count. The Charlotte, NC count summary noted that "Cover and food content of open water areas greatly reduced by continuing development." In General Field Notes, a report on wildfowl wintering at Mattamuskeet listed Canada Goose as by far the most abundant species, while Tundra Swan (then called Whistling Swan) was one of the least abundant. A sight record of Lark Bunting near Fayetteville, NC, on 7 July 1958 was reported.— *Kent Fiala, editor*