

Season: Fall Year: 1981Name and address
(print or type) Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards St
Iowa City IA 52240

Other observers (name, city):

Curt Budorf, Mike Newton,
Rick Hollis, Tom Standt - all Iowa CityUse first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to:
T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City IA 52240
by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

use initials of obsv. on species line

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Coralville Reservoir	high	-poor	for shorebirds
Weather generally	warm	with	above average rain
✓ Common Loon	1	11/26	Coralville Res. - last date RH
✓ Horned Grebe	1	11/16	L. Macbride CB, MN
✓ Abl-cast. Cormorant	25	9/19	Coralville Res
✓ Canvasback	3000	10/25	Montrose, Lee Co - Kerkelke pond - MN
✓ Ring-necked Duck	3000	11/28	L&D #19 - large number
✓ (doc) White-winged Scoter	4	10/25	e. of Ft. Madison, Lee Co, on Mississippi R. MN
✓ (doc) Goshawk	1	11/16	Hickory Hill P., Iowa City MN, TS
✓ (doc) Black Rail	1	8/29	Cone M.
✓ Short-billed Dowitcher	1	8/22	Coralville Res - alternate plumage - spots on sides of breast, rusty, buffy edging to wing.
✓ "	2	9/16	n. Davenport - juveniles - buffy neck with streaks, internal markings on tertials
✓ Western Sandpiper	1	8/22	Coralville Res
✓ (doc) Thayer's Gull	2	11/7	Coralville Res CB
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	25	11/8	Lake Macbride CB, MN, RH
✓ " "	3	11/16	" CB, MN
✓ Caspian Tern	60	9/19	Coralville Res CB
✓ "	2	10/3	" "
✓ Mourning Dove	200	8/29	Cone M. large flock
✓ (doc) Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	9/19	Hickory Hill P., Iowa City CB
✓ Bewick's Wren	1	9/27	" "
✓ Sedge Wren	1	10/3	Coralville Res CB

1. Species Black Rail 2. Number _____

3. Location Cove Marsh, Louisa Co., Iowa

4. Date: 29 August 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 9:10 Am to 9:10 Am

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

A small jet black bird walked across an algae covered area of water and into the marsh grass. I judged the bird to be slightly larger than a House Sparrow, although there were no birds in sight for comparison. The body was chunky. The shape and manner of walking was that of a rail. I could see nothing but black. The bill was not distinct from the head and was short and pointed. The bird appeared to walk on the surface of the algae but may have been grasping on the few weeds in the water. It appeared to be feeding but continued walking and disappeared into the weed in about 10 seconds. The dull light and short time prevented me from evaluating the back color adequately - I didn't see any rusty feathers.

7. Description of voice, if heard:

Not heard

8. Description of behavior:

As above

9. Habitat - general: Marsh

specific: 50 paces from the W. end of the dike and the same distance S. along a small water area.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

By shape and behavior the bird was a rail. The date is wrong for downy young of other species and the bird did not appear downy.

11. Distance (how measured)?

50 yards - paced similar distance

12. Optical equipment:

8x40 Leitz Trinovide

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Dull overcast

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

Seen once about 4 1/2 mile from this location in the spring

15. Other observers:

none

16. Did the others agree with your identification? N/A

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: None

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

None

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 30 min.

copied 2 hrs later

Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Parkside Dr

Date: 29 Aug 81 City, State: Louis City IA 52240

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 2. Number 1
3. Location Hickory Hill P. Iowa City, Johnson Co., Iowa
4. Date: 19 Sep 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 8⁰⁰ to 8⁰² (est)
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
Empidonax with light yellow wash to underparts. Narrow eye ring definitely yellowish. Two wing bars slightly yellow - more yellow than tips of feathers which appeared white. Back green-gray.
Bird feeding in heavy undergrowth.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Heard per-see twice. Very soft.
8. Description of behavior: Feeding in small trees. Sitting in ground several times.
9. Habitat - general: as above
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: Identification based on yellow tinge to underparts, wing-bars and eye ring, on greenish back, and on voice.
11. Distance (how measured)? 20-30 ft (est)
12. Optical equipment: 8x40 binocs
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Clear, but area mostly shady.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Seen a few times
15. Other observers: Carl Bendish
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Looked at Robbins and Peterson after seeing bird and before writing description. We discussed the description as we watched the bird.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 4 hrs.
- Signature: Thomas H. Kent Address: 211 Richards St.
- Date: 9/19/81 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? White-winged Scoter How many? 4Location? Mississippi R., n. of Ft Madison, Lee Co. IowaType of habitat? Open riverWhen? date(s): 25 Oct 1981 time: 11²⁵ to 11²⁵ AMWho? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City IA 52240others with you: Mike Newton, Mike Mulier

others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

4 large black ducks flying up river about 70 ft off water.
 All black except for large white patch in secondaries.
 Relatively slow wing beat, heavy body, large head.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Size, white wing patch, black color eliminates all other species

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Overcast, bright rain, birds seen from car at 200 yards (est)
 8x binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Saw 3 times in Iowa and on West CoastReferences and persons consulted before writing description: noHow long before field notes made? 2 min this form completed? 4 hrs.

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

What species? Thayer's Gull How many? 2Location? Coralville Res. Dam, west overlook, Johnson Co. IowaType of habitat? Reservoir, just above dam, in water and on swimming beachWhen? date(s): 7 Nov 1981, ? 8 Nov 1981 time: 9:25 to 9:50 AM, also 11:00-11:20 and 7:30-8:30 on 8 NovWho? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City IA 52240others with you: Carl Bendorf late AM on 7 Nov, Mike Newlon, m. obs on 8 Novothers before or after you: none that I know of

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

"Among 230 Ring-billed Gulls were two larger brown gulls and one adult Herring Gull. The brown gulls were distinctly larger than the ring-bills and slightly smaller than the Herring Gull (in the same field). Bill thinner than Herring's, straight and all black. There was an indistinct darker patch behind the eye. Feathers extended further over the upper than the lower mandible. The birds were overall light, rather uniform brown except for darker but not black wing tips. There was light white edging to the wing coverts giving a patterned appearance. The proximal primaries were lighter from below (window effect) in flight (seen once). The tail had a broad brown band over the distal $\frac{1}{2}$ of the tail and lighter brown rump. The flanks appeared slightly barred. The legs and feet were pink. The wings from above were relatively uniform brown but darker at the tips." These notes were made toward the end of the first observation period with out consulting any references and I was alone. They were expanded to make sentences but not otherwise altered. Most of these findings were confirmed by Carl Bendorf later on 7 Nov. We also noted white edging to the tertials and possibly slight edging on the primaries. The next morning there were three brown gulls on the beach. The bill and head shape again seemed to be that of Thayer's Gull (uniform thin black bill with only slightest suggestion of gonygeal buldge and staight forehead with rounded small head). The overall lightness of the bird was not as evident as described the day before and views in flight were not as good. Later on the morning of 8 Nov there were about five first year Herring Gulls which were seen at a distance on water and close up flying over the top of the dam. Their tail bands and wing tips were black-brown and more contrasting with the rest of the wing and tail. On 10 Nov at 8 AM there were about five first year Herrings and two adults. The immatures were quite dark brown and had large bills with thick buldging and sharp curve at the end of the upper mandible. Similar species and how eliminated: Photographs taken at the first encounter with

a Celestron 750 mm lens demonstrate the size difference, the bill and head shape difference, the lighter overall color, and the window in the wing. An adult Herring was in the photo with the Thayer's on 7 Nov and imm Herring were photographed on 10 Nov. Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? for comparison.

Mike Newlon was unsure on Sunday and I couldn't tell if others had confirmed the findings. If yes, explain: My doubts were raised on Sunday (8 Nov) although the head and bill

findings were the same. But there were 3 birds. The photos however confirm my initial findings. Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment.

Sunny, early AM light with sun at about right angle to right.

50-300 yards (est).

8x binoculars, 20x scope, 15x lens on camera.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:
Seen once in western Iowa in March 1981.

References and persons consulted before writing description:
none until later

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 24 hrs, 5 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk - adult How many? 1Location? Hickory Hill P., Iowa City, Johnson Co., IowaType of habitat? hilly pasture with scrub, tree rows, juniper and woodlandWhen? date(s): 16 Nov 1981 time: 4:15 to 4:45 pm (est)Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City IA 52240others with you: Pike Newton, Tom Standtothers before or after you: Rick Hollis (letter)

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A large accipiter - as long as a Red-tailed Hawk but slimmer and smaller head. Head - relatively small, rather flat headed with angle at back, white line above eye, dark crown and eye line, small curved (hooked) bill. White breast, crissum and under tail. Neutral gray wing coverts and dark (nearly black) primaries, white extending around nape. Bird first seen flying up down chasing a bird - lit on ground. Then flew into a tree and seen from back. Later seen in a large tree from front. Flight straight, fast and direct. Bird appeared larger and heavier than a Cooper's Hawk. Bird made a series of sharp harsh notes when chasing the bird.

Similar species and how eliminated: Color, eye line, size, flight eliminate other accipiters. Shape and behavior. Unlike other hawks.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Light rain, late afternoon. 30-50 yards (est). 8X binocularsPrevious experience with species and similar ones: Seen twice before, never this wellReferences and persons consulted before writing description: noneHow long before field notes made? 1 1/2 hours this form completed? same

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