

DETAILS FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTING

SPECIES: BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (First winter)

LOCATION: Above (sitting on water) and below (In flight and feeding) dam at the Coralville Reservoir in Johnson County

DATE: 2-3 October, 1991 (12:30-45PM on the 2nd, and 3:30-5:00PM on the 3rd)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240

OTHER OBSERVERS: Jane Fuller, Tom Kent, Carl Bendorf, Bud Gode, Jim Scheib, Tom and Becky Boggess, Cal and Bernie Knight, Randy Pinkston.

BACKGROUND: Along with Jane Fuller, I was watching the gulls feeding below the Coralville Reservoir dam, when the unusual dark pattern on the upperwing was noticed on one of the feeding gulls. The other field marks were then looked for and found. The following day, I saw what was probably the same bird sitting on the lake above the dam with a group of Bonaparte's gulls.

DESCRIPTION: The following field marks were noted. This bird was noticeably larger than nearby Bonaparte's gulls. In flight there was a black V on each wing, with the point of the V toward the front of the upperwing. There was a black spot behind the eye, and a large black line extending across the back of the neck from each side of the head. There was also a well delineated black tail band. Black legs were noted on the flying bird. There was also an irregular and horizontal dark area across the folded wing. The bill was small and also black.

ADDITION TO DOCUMENTATION

SPECIES:BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

On 6 November, either the same or a different first winter bird from the one documented was seen sitting on the lake above the Coralville Reservoir Dam.

On 15 and 16 November, I observed two Black-legged kittiwakes at Pleasant Creek Lake State Park, Linn County. Both were immature birds in first winter plumage. I noted no real differences between these birds and the bird of that species seen at the Coralville Reservoir.