

**DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD**

On 12, February, at exactly the same location, I saw a bird that looked exactly the same as the bird documented on 3 January. The only  
**SPECIES:** Great Black-backed Gull (First winter) ... 175 yards (3) (1)  
... as sunny (4) It was later morning 11:30-12N (5) The flock of gulls  
**LOCATION:** Mississippi River above Lock & Dam #15 (Scott County)

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

**OTHERS:** None

**DATE & TIME:** 2 January, 1995 (8:45-9:10 AM)

**DESCRIPTION:** This bird was found standing on the ice above Lock & Dam #15 with about 200 other gulls, mostly Herrings. The bird was first picked out as different because it was noticeably larger than any of the gulls in the group, and it had a distinctive black and white checkered mantle and folded wing. The bill was massive, and entirely black. The underparts were white with some blackish-brown streaking. The head and neck were white, and the eye appeared to be dark. The primaries of the folded wing were black, and I could see a black tail band on a whitish tail at one point. The legs were a pinkish-gray color, and appeared to be thicker and longer than those of the Herring Gulls. I did not see the bird fly, which the flock did do when an eagle came by. I was looking at other birds at the time, and never saw this gull again.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** No other first-winter gull has the large size, the large all-black bill, and in particular the black and white checkered pattern of the mantle.

**VIEWING CONDITIONS & OPTICS:** I was looking north on a cloudy morning with a window-mounted KOWA TSN4 telescope (20-60X zoom lens) at a distance of about 200 yards.

**PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:** I have seen one other first winter bird of this species, also on the Mississippi, between Bettendorf and Moline.

**REFERENCES & FIELD NOTES:** Field notes were made at the time of observation as I watched in the car, and the National Geographic Field Guide was viewed after the sighting. This form was typed on 4 January.

On 12, February, at exactly the same location, I saw a bird that looked exactly the same as the bird documented on 2 January. The only differences: (1) With Jim Scheib (2) Slightly closer....175 yards (3) It was sunny (4) Its was later morning 11:30-12N (5) The flock of gulls standing on the ice was larger, probably 300 birds. (6) The legs appeared more pinkish.