

1. Species: Great Black-backed Gull Number seen: 1
 (If known) Age: ad. Sex: _____ Plumage: winter
2. Location (including county): Miss. River between Bettendorf, IA + Moline, IL ^{Scott Co} ^{Rock}
3. Date(s): Feb. 2+3, 1992 Time of day: 2/2-1:30 PM 1:45 PM
also 2/8-1, 2/9-2, 2/11-2, 2/13-1 ^{same location} 8:35 AM to 9:10 AM
4. Observers -- Your name: Peter C. Petersen Phone: (319) 355-7051
 Address: 235 Mc Clellan Blvd., Davenport, IA Zip 52803
 Others present: 2/2- Ann Johnson, Garry White 2/3 Dan Dorrance
 Others before or after you: mob

5. Describe the habitat the bird(s) was found in and the surrounding habitat:

On ice flow floating down Miss. River

6. Description: Describe in great detail (but only include what actually was seen in the field (the size, shape and color pattern of the bird(s)). Include a description of the bill, eye, legs, feet, tail, body and wings as well as other diagnostic characteristics.

Very large gull, mantle black-beak black, primaries + secondaries tipped white. Legs pale pink, head, neck, chest + belly white, tail white, bill yellow with red gonys spot. Bill very heavy.

Species: Great Black Gull Date seen: Feb. 23, 1992 Observer: P. C. Petersen

7. Similar species (explain how eliminated): lesser Black-backed Gull - much smaller, legs yellow, mantle dark grey, Slaty-backed Gull - smaller, mantle dark grey, legs bright pink.
8. Describe the bird's behavior: standing on ice flow
9. Describe the song or call notes heard: not heard
10. Viewing conditions:
Optical equipment used (type, power): 10x40 Zeiss binocs, 30-60x60S and ST scope
Closest distance to bird (how measured): 150 m - est
Lighting and weather: Full sun on 2/2, thin clouds on 2/3 - sun behind obs
Was the bird photographed? no By whom? _____ Attached? _____
11. Summarize previous experience with this species and similar species:
Have seen many times in Pa., IL, E. coast.
12. Other observers who did not agree with the identification (explain): none
13. List books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description? none
14. How long after observing the bird(s) before field notes completed? _____
15. How long after observing the bird(s) before this form completed? 3 hrs.

Mail this completed form to: Avian Ecology Program, Natural Heritage Division
Dept. of Conservation, Springfield, IL 62701

If you have observed a common bird species during a season of abundance, verification is achieved simply by returning there again in season. If, however, the observation involves a rare species, or a common species out of season or at an unusual location, and you wish to share this experience with the scientific community, special documentation is necessary.

An acceptable documentation consists of one or more of the following: a collected, diagnostic specimen; a diagnostic photograph; a diagnostic recording of the bird's voice; or, an accurate and detailed written description of the observation. It must be emphasized that a request for documentation is not an affront, but an effort to perpetuate a record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for all to examine. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation irrespective of the observer.