

1. Species: Lesser 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. P. Ill. Co.
3. Date(s): Feb. 2, 1992 Time of day: 1:30 PM to 1:35 PM
4. Observers -- Your name: Peter C. Peterson Phone: (319) 355-7051  
 Address: 235 McCollan Blvd., Davenport, IA Zip 52803
- Others present: Ann Johnson
- Others before or after you: Geory White
5. Describe the habitat the bird(s) was found in and the surrounding habitat:

Main channel of 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.

Dark grey mottled gull on ice flow with Herring & Great Black-backed Gulls. Size smaller than Herring's. Head white with tan streaking. Bill yellow with small red gonyal spot, legs yellow, belly & tail white.

Species: Lesser Black-backed Gull Date seen: Feb. 2, 1992 Observer: P. C. Petersen

7. Similar species (explain how eliminated): Great-Black-backed- seen with one, much smaller, mantle not black, slate-backed. This bird smaller than Herring's, legs were yellow
8. Describe the bird's behavior: standing on ice - not seen in flight
9. Describe the song or call notes heard: not heard.
10. Viewing conditions:  
Optical equipment used (type, power): 10X40 Zeiss binocs, 35X60 Swift scope  
Closest distance to bird (how measured): 400m - est  
Lighting and weather: full sun behind observers  
Was the bird photographed? no By whom? \_\_\_\_\_ Attached? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Summarize previous experience with this species and similar species:  
Have seen on 8-10 previous occasions in FA, IC, IN, + in Europe.
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? Checked Geo guide & Gull's Grant - 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. they did not influence the description
14. How long after observing the bird(s) before field notes completed? —
15. How long after observing the bird(s) before this form completed? 4 hours

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.