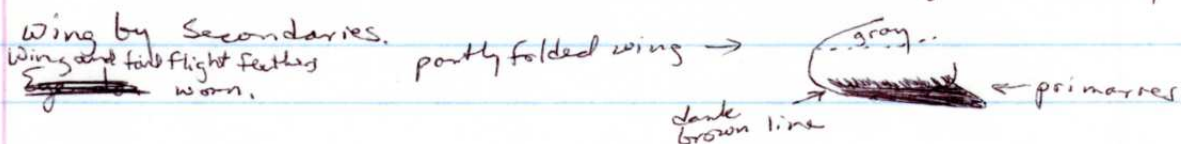


Herring Gull - 1                      24 May 1985  
2 PL Settling Ponds, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Description: Substantially larger than the Ring-billed Gulls with it. Head white. Bill ~~to~~ pink with a black tip. Eye dark. Legs flesh-color. Wing tips solid dark brown. Tail feathers  $\frac{1}{2}$  or more dark brown, with bases white. Upper + under tail coverts bordered with brown. Back + the wing coverts near it are <sup>light</sup> gray. Other wing coverts are light brown. Brown subterminal bar on secondaries. There is a lighter brown rectangle on front of

Wing by Secondaries.  
Wing and tail flight feathers  
~~Wing~~ worn.



Behavior: Bird stood with Ring-bills on shore of settling pond. Preened a lot. Flew around a couple times.

Similar species: Similar to most of the other large immature gulls of the world. Mantle too light for Black-backed group. Wingtips, even in their faded condition, too dark for Glaucous, Glaucous-winged, etc. that leaves a whole mess of light-mantled large gulls with dark wing tips. Description seems to match young Herring gull (second summer?) well enough. Eye color would probably be becoming pale in a Herring of this plumage, but perhaps not, + it might not show at the distance. I have trouble eliminating California Gull, but <sup>it is</sup> even harder to support that species.

Viewing Conditions: 20x scope. I was on road at settling ponds + I was east of ~~me~~ me, on "beach", near water's edge.

I'm not enthusiastic about documenting a young gull. Unfortunately, it was just slightly late. Written June 3 from notes taken at the time. ~~but~~

- Bob Wilson  
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