

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

WITHDRAWN BY
Le Har from CECT / 1-28-91

What species? Thayer's Gull How many? 1

Location? Behind Lock and Dam 19 at Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa

Type of Habitat? River

When? date(s): Nov. 6, 1990 time: 7:45 AM to 8:00 AM
1:30 PM to 1:40 PM

Who? your name and address: Robert Cecil 1315 41st. St. Des Moines, IA 50311

Others with you: None

Others before or after you: Not to my knowledge

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Noted uniformly frosty brown gull flying over the river in the company of Ring-bills or various ages, and Herring Gulls, primarily first winter birds. Overall, the bird appeared very uniform in color, but upon closer observation, the slightly darker secondaries and tail band could be observed. This was in contrast to the 1st year Herring Gulls, which showed much more contrast. On one occasion, the subject bird and a 1st year Herring banked together, showing a clear comparative view of their backs. The contrasting colors of the Herring and the uniformity of the Thayer's were very evident. I also noted that the Thayer's was smaller, perhaps between the Herring and Ring-bills in size. The Thayer's also showed a slight darkening at the wingtips. This was more noticeable when the bird was at rest.

The bill was dark, with perhaps a slight lightening at the base.
Legs were dark.

My details would have been more thorough except people kept coming up to the car wanting to know about the Eagles, which they presumed I was watching.

Similar species; how eliminated: Too small, too uniform in color for Herring. Slight darkening at wingtips eliminates Iceland.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. Viewing conditions excellent. Distance 25 to 100 yds. Nikon 20X scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen and documented several at this location.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? at time this form completed? 3 days.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).