

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Franklin's Gull

How Many?2 ad.

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.--above dam

Habitat?resting with other gulls on large reservoir

Date?2 Dec 1987

Time?3:40-4:30 p.m.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:Both birds were observed resting with thousands of other gulls that were roosting on the reservoir. At least one of the Franklin's Gulls had been at the roost for over a week. Both birds were adults in winter plumage and were smaller than nearby Ring-billed Gulls. Other features noted on both birds were; thin, dark bill, dark hood and white forehead, gray mantle and wings, except that the wingtips were black and separated from the rest of the wing by a white bar, and a white tail and underparts. Leg color was not seen.

Similar species and how eliminated:The dark hood and wing pattern eliminate all other gulls except Laughing Gull. The small bill and white bar separating the black wingtip from the rest of the wing eliminates Laughing Gull (in adult plumage).

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent with the sun behind me. Estimated viewing distance was about 300-400 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen many Franklin's Gulls in Iowa and many Laughing Gulls on the east coast.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?2 days