

DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR IOWA BIRD SIGHTINGS

Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Avenue, North Liberty, IA 52317

What Species? Lesser Black-backed Gull

How many? 1

Location? Mississippi River, Davenport, Scott Co.

Type of Habitat? River.

When? January 7, 1996, 1:45 - 3:00 p.m.

Who? Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty, IA 52317.

Others with you: Kurt Nelson, Mason City.

Others before or after you:

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.

Slightly smaller than nearby Herring Gulls. Bill bright yellow-orange with red spot on lower culmen. Eye yellow. Head and underparts white, with light gray streaks on crown, nape, and side of neck. Dark gray mantle, back, and wings. Primaries on sitting bird black with white tips. Legs and feet bright yellow.

The bird was seen swimming and sitting on ice with many Herring Gulls.

Similar species; how eliminated: Great Black-backed Gull is much larger, has a blacker back, and pale pink legs. Herring Gull has a lighter gray mantle and pink legs.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? No.

Viewing conditions: Full sunlight, 50 yards away. Viewed with 8 x 40 binoculars and 15x - 45x telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Minimal experience with Lesser Black-backed Gull; very familiar with Herring Gull.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None.

How long before field notes made? Fifteen minutes.

How long before this form completed? Four hours.