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## DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Franklin's Gull, 1 in alternate plumage, 16 December 1990, Coralville Reservoir (Jolly Roger), Johnson Co., IA

Observer: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

Other observers: Carl Bendorf and others, bird found by Carol Thompson

Time: 1:30 to 1:45 (estimate)

Habitat: wide part of reservoir

Description: A gull smaller than ring-billed with complete black hood and medium dark mantle--much darker than ring-billed. Eye cup seen. White on tertials. Neck, underparts, and tail white. When it flew, the dark tips to the wings were separated from the gray of the proximal wing by a white bar.

Behavior: standing on ice and flying.

Conditions: overcast, 150-300 yards, 20x scope and 10x binocular

Similar species: Bonaparte's not hooded at this time of year and has lighter wing with white leading edge.

In the last several years, Franklin's Gulls in alternate plumage have been recorded in the midwest in winter.

Agreement: yes.

Previous experience: have studied many.

References/time used: none

Time of notes: 4 hours; typed: 2 days (verbatim)

*neither is Franklin's!*