

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Black-legged Kittiwake How many? 1Location? Saylorville Reservoir - N. end of Jester ParkType of habitat? Wide River area - tree branch for perchingWhen? date(s): Dec. 9, 1987 time: 1:40 p.m. to 1:55 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Steve Dinsmore, Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: Steve before - seen since Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

This pretty gull was about 150 yards away. It flew in and landed among other gulls. It had a dark black bar across its nape. It had black tips on its outer primaries, dark lines on its back, and a dark terminal tail band. I believe it had a dark bill. A Bonaparte's Gull was fluttering at it and it spread its wings at the Bonaparte's a few times and also flew a few times. The immature Kittiwake was bigger than the Bonaparte's gulls floating beside it, and the Kittiwake had an upright posture and had a longer neck appearance and a bigger head look.

Similar species and how eliminated:

An immature Bonaparte's Gull lacks the dark black bar across the nape and the dark lines on its back are lighter than a Kittiwake.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Partly cloudy with sun behind us. Distance estimated. 8X30 Binoculars.  
22X Scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen 1 immature Black-legged Kittiwake before and many Bonaparte's.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Natl. Geog. Birds of North America.

How long before field notes made? while viewing this form completed? Feb. 15, 1988

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240