

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Black-Legged Kittiwake How many? 1Location? Red Rock ReservoirType of habitat? Below dam in the river channelWhen? date(s): Dec. 24, 1990 time: 4:15 p.m. to 4:16 p.m. approximately It was there all the afternoonWho? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Steve and Jim Dinsmore, Pam + Reid Allen, Ann Johnson, Beth Proescholdt

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior. Later seen - Jan. 1, 1991 - with Beth Proescholdt, Curt Nelson, Jan Walters, Pat Hansen, Ann Johnson, Beth Brown

(This was really over-looked mostly with the Ivory Gull around.)

A small gull - (roughly ring-billed gull size) - was swimming by itself below the dam. It had a whitish head with a black spot behind the eye. It had a very striking black bar across the back of its neck. The gull had a grayish mantle with very noticeable black stripes on its folded wings as it swam. It flew once and showed striking black stripes across the inner wings. I forgot to look at the bill and the tip of the tail. This 1st winter Black-legged Kittiwake was very distinctive.

on Jan. 1 → Saw Black Bill, Black terminal tail marking, Black bar on nape from 25-30 yards away where it was standing and later flying.

Similar species and how eliminated:

A Bonaparte's lacks the black bar across the back of the neck and the black stripes across the inner wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Mostly sunny, sun at my side, 60-70 yards away estimated,
8x30 Binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen quite a few 1st winter Black-legged Kittiwakes in Iowa now.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Natl. Geographic's Birds of N. America, R.T. Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds.

How long before field notes made? 6:50 p.m. this form completed? Dec. 26, 1990

that night

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