

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Great Black-backed Gull - adult How many? 1

Location? Lock 13

Type of Habitat? Miss. River - circular pier.

When? date(s): 29 Sep. 1996 time: 12:00 noon - 12:15 PM CST
2:45 PM to 3:05 PM CST

Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd. Davis, IA

Others with you: Mark Bollinger 5280

Others before or after you: Corey & Lewis Blevins

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.

Very large gull, noticeably taller than Herring Gulls standing next to it. Head, neck, chest & belly bright white. Upper parts (mantle) black. Bill yellow. Legs dull pink. Bill seemed very heavy vs Herring. During first observation legs not visible as bird was resting on belly. Upon return the bird was standing and light conditions were better. Tail not completely visible but what we could see was white. Not seen in flight.

Similar species; how eliminated: Lesser Black-backed - leg color, size, darkness of back. Slaty-backed - size, darkness of back. Western - size, darkness of back

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. 900 m. from narwhart
KOWA scope 40-60x77.
↓ first obs - @ c. 1st train
2nd obs - clear, sun to left at 90° behind obs.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen many times in N.E. & several times on Miss. River.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? 1 hr this form completed? 2 hrs.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).