

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Black-legged Kittiwake How many? 1
Location? just below Red Rock Dam - south tailwater area - Marion Co., IA
Type of Habitat? river - gravel bars
When? date(s): 28 Nov. '88 time: 12:55pm to 1:15pm
Who? your name and address: Mike Thomas, 2517 47th St., Des Moines, IA. 50310
Others with you: none
Others before or after you: Ann Johnson

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.

Ringbill sized gull with white head, throat, underside & underwings; gray back.
Prominent black patch behind eye bending upwards towards rear of head. Black wide partial collar at base of neck. Black band on tail end. Black/dark feet & legs.
Wings were gray on top with top leading edge black and tips black. Beak was black.
In flight, each wing had black ~~band~~ pattern like 1/2 of an M.

Similar species; how eliminated: Ringbill: collar, eye patch, black pattern on wings
Bonaparte's: collar, size
Red-legged Kittiwake: thickness of collar, black legs/feet

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? n/a
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
Clear, 5-10% clouds, low wind, 75 yards to 300 yards ± est., 8x40 binoculars & 80mm scope @ 22x

Previous experience with species and similar ones: none, life bird.

References and persons consulted before writing description: National Geographic Field Guide used at time of viewing to confirm identification features.

How long before field notes made? at time this form completed? 1 1/2 hours

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