

Dav-QL

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Thayer's Gull - imm. How many? 1
 Location? Lock & Dam 15, seen from Iowa working near Ill. Shore mostly
 Type of Habitat? Open water
 When? date(s): Dec. 17, 1995 time: 12:05 to 12:10 AM.
 Who? your name and address: _____
 Others with you: Walt Zuerberg, Mary Lou Petersen
 Others before or after you: Kelly McKee at 3:30, about 3 mi. East

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.

Herring sized imm. gull foraging with ad. imm. Herring & a few Ring-billed Gulls, overall very pale bird, much paler than 4 1/2 year Herring Gulls present. Bill black, smaller than Herring bills. Face white, grey-brown on top of head & behind eye. Tail dark grey-brown with uniform white tip, very narrow, rump lighter grey-brown. Mantle showed very pale "windows", tips of primaries medium grey brown, all coverts & scapulars light grey-brown, also secondaries. Gave a faint checkered appearance. Underwing very pale.

Similar species; how eliminated: Herring Gull - heavier bill, very dark primary tips, no windows, tail darker with uneven white edge, secondaries dark from above, underwing much darker. Iceland Gull would show much lighter plumage overall, especially tail & primary tips

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

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. partial overcast, sun to side of bird, range 400m. (measured on map) 10x40 Zeiss + 10x40 P&L Binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen about 10 times previously

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? ± hr.

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