

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (IMMATURE) How many? 1Location? CONE MARSHType of habitat? MARSHWhen? date(s): 3/12/87 time: APPR. 2:15 to FOR ABOUT 1/2 MINUTESWho? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL, RR#6, IOWA CITYothers with you: NOothers before or after you: NO

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.

THE BIRD WAS FIRST NOTICED IN A GROUP OF 20 RING-BILLED GULLS THAT CIRCLED OVER MY HEAD. WHAT DREW ATTENTION TO THIS BIRD WAS ITS SLIGHTLY SMALLER SIZE (VS. RING BILLED) AND DIFFERENT FLIGHT CIT (SEEMED MORE GRACEFUL). NEXT FEATURE NOTED WAS A SLIGHTLY NOTCHED TAIL VS. THE RING BILLED'S ROUND TAIL. THE TAIL ALSO HAD A BLACK TERMINAL BAND, WHICH WAS THICKEST TOWARD CORNERS AND SEEMED TO FADE OUT TOWARD THE NOTCH. THE LEGS WERE QUITE BLACK AGAINST THE WHITE BELLY. THE HEAD AND BILL BOTH SEEMED SMALL, AND ALTHOUGH NO COLOR WAS SEEN, THE BILL APPEARED DARK. THE WINGS HAD VERY DARK TIPS, BUT THERE WERE NO WHITE SPOTS OR TIPS AT THE ENDS. THERE WAS A FAINT DARK LINE ON THE NECK BEHIND THE EYE. UNDERWING SEEN FROM BELOW APPEARED AS IN DIAGRAM. UPPERWING NOT SEEN WELL.



FIELD NOTES ABOVE WERE MADE BEFORE ANY BOOK WAS REVIEWED.

Similar species and how eliminated:

RING BILLED GULL - LEG COLOR + TAIL SHAPE
SABINES - SIZE, LEG COLOR, + WING PATTERN

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

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

SEEN MOSTLY DIRECTLY OVERHEAD WITH 9X36 BINOCULARS. FROM 20-50 YARDS. OVERCAST SKY WITH MIST.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: NONEReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC, PETERSON + HARRISONHow long before field notes made? IMMEDIATE this form completed? 6 HOURS

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