

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Thayer's Gull; **Number:** 1 1st-winter

Location: Red Rock Res., Marion Co.

Date: 13 Nov 1993; **Time:** about 5 p.m.

Name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

Others before/with/after: Bob Cecil, Dick Tetrault with me; later I learned that Jim Fuller had seen a Thayer's Gull here earlier in the day.

Habitat and circumstances: Below reservoir dam.

Description of bird: Bob spotted the bird flying below the dam. It was a first-winter brownish gull with all silvery flight feathers from below. There was no dark at the tip. From above the wings were uniform with darker brown outer few primaries. We did not see a secondary bar, but the distance was too great to pick up a faint bar. The tail had a broad medium brown distal band. We based the identification on these features. There were many first-winter Herring Gulls present, and they were darker, less uniform, and had dark wing tips.

Similar species: Herring Gull -- see above.

Any one have reservations?: No.

Light: cloudy; **Distance:** 1/4 mile; **Optics:** 10x binocular, 20x scope.

Previous experience: Have seen many.

References before/after viewing: none.

Time of notes: 1 hour; **Final typing:** 2 weeks