

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Lesser Black-backed Gull How many? 1

Location? Miss. R. between Bettendorf + Mo/lue, Scott & R. I. Cos.

Type of Habitat? river channel

When? date(s): Jan. 11, 1992 time: 8:50 AM to 9:00 AM.

Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen

Others with you: no one

Others before or after you: no one to my knowledge

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.

Adult gull swimming with Herring and Ring-bills in main channel of Miss. River near sea wall - seen from Ill. side, about 4600 River Drive. Bird larger than Ring-bills, a bit smaller than Herring Gulls. Mantle much darker than adult Herring but not black. Wings raised once, showing narrow white trailing edge. Bill yellow with a red area on tip of lower mandible. Head white, smudge streaked tan. Legs not seen. Bill not heavier or larger than Herring. Dark brownish smudge behind eye

Similar species; how eliminated: Great Black-backed - back not black, too small. Slaty-backed - a bit small, trailing edge of wing with narrow, not wide, white edge. Western - a bit small, bill not larger & heavier than the several nearby Herring.

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

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. Saw directly behind obs, bright, clear day. 10x40 Zeiss binocs, Swift Scope at 30-45x60 on tripod. Distance est. at 300 m. - from top map.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen on several previous occasions here & in Europe

References and persons consulted before writing description: Bco. guide to confirm id points, also Gulls - Grant - 2nd ed.

How long before field notes made? 5 min this form completed? 8 hrs

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