

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake

Number: 1 first-basic

Location: Red Rock Reservoir, Marion Co., IA

Habitat: large lake

Date: 30 November 1996

Time: 3:05-3:21 p.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

Others who saw bird: Jim Sinclair

Description of bird(s): We were birding from the north end of the dam when Jim noticed an unusual gull flying along the dam face. He called my attention to the bird and we both recognized it as a first-basic Black-legged Kittiwake. The bird was alone, but seemed to be roughly the size of a Ring-billed Gull. The bill and legs were black. The head was white except for a small black spot behind the eye and a black collar. The underparts were white. The tail was also white, slightly forked, and had a narrow, black terminal band. The mantle was light gray. The upperwing pattern was as follows: outer primaries black, inner primaries white, secondaries and their coverts gray with a black carpal bar.

Similar species and how eliminated: The black collar and wing and tail patterns eliminate all other gulls.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were very good with overcast skies. Estimated viewing distance as 100-300m. I used 10x42 binoculars and a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I have seen several other kittiwakes in Iowa, plus hundreds off the East Coast.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none written

How long before this form completed: written 30 November 1996