

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

#2

What species? Thayer's Gull 1st winter How many? 1Location? Lock & Dam 14, North of Davenport, IowaType of Habitat? RiverWhen? date(s): Feb. 7, 1992 time: 3:00 PM to 3:15 P.M.Who? your name and address: Bob Cecil 1315 41st St. Des Moines, IA 50311Others with you: Jim Fuller

Others before or after you: _____

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.

Picked out at least one, probably more birds with the following field marks:

Overall light brown coloration (I like the "coffee with cream" description). This coloration was highly uniform, lacking the contrast of 1st winter Herrings. While it was highly uniform, I did notice a slight darkening towards the ends of the primaries, the secondaries, and the tail band. This was barely noticeable, quite unlike the dark tail band, secondary bar, and primaries of same-age Herrings, which I had also present. The subject bird also exhibited no "window" in the wings that Herrings do.

The underwings were uniform translucent pale brown to the tip, again in contrast to Herrings.

I didn't have great opportunities to compare size among the gulls, but felt that the subject bird was intermediate in size between Ring-bills and Herrings, perhaps somewhat closer in size to Herring.

The bill and the eye was dark.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? _____

If yes, explain:

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

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? _____

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