

## DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

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

**Location:** Lock and Dam 14, Scott Co., IA

**Date:** 3 Jan 1995; **Time:** 12:00 to 12:20 p.m.

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

**Others before/with/after:** One reported at Lock and Dam 15 on 2 Jan.

**Habitat and circumstances:** Mississippi River dam

**Description of bird:** Flying below dam. Overall plain light brown. Underparts all same color except for silvery flight feathers extending to tip of wing. Upper wing with very slight window effect and perhaps a little darkening of outer 1-2 primaries. Body same color as wing. Tail with dark broad tail band -- about distal half.

**Voice:** Not heard.

**Similar species:** I looked at many variable first-winter Herring Gulls today. All had more dark on wing tip and darker tail band. This bird was easy to pick out over and over again.

**Any one have reservations?:** NA

**Light:** Sun behind me.; **Distance:** 150 to 500 yards; **Optics:** 10x binocular (150 yards), 20x scope (500 yards).

**Previous experience:** Have seen many.

**References before/after viewing:** none.

**Time of notes:** 5 min.; **Final typing:** 5 hours.