

DETAILS FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTING

SPECIES: Thayer's Gull (Adult)

LOCATION: Below dam at Red Rock Reservoir (Marion County)

DATE: 8 November, 1992 (10:10-20 AM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa,  
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DETAILS: There were hundreds of gulls flying below the Red Rock Dam. Most were Ring-Billed Gulls, with a few Herring and Bonaparte's Gulls. The bird was picked out from the flock, because it was obviously larger than the Ring-billeds. The bird was similar in size and mantle and upper wing color to adult Herring Gull. However, differences included bright pinkish-red legs, distinctive even on the flying bird, and the black and white pattern at the wingtip. This bird had only a little black, and did have some sub-terminal white spots on the primaries at the wingtip. Compared to a Herring Gull, the black and white was only about a third as extensive.