

## DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

*Species:* Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1 ad.

*Location:* Cedar Lake, Linn Co., Iowa

*Date:* 5 January 1992 *Time:* 9:50 to 10:00 a.m., also 10:30

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

*Others before/with/after:* none before

*Habitat and circumstances:* backwater lake and cooling pond with some ice

*Description of bird:* I noticed 30 Herring Gulls on the ice and one dark mantled bird. I got my scope and moved up to them. The bird was slightly smaller than Herring Gulls and had a charcoal gray mantle. The bill was light with a red mark near the tip of the lower mandible. The bill appeared slightly thinner than the Herrings' bills. The head and neck were lightly streaked. The tail was white. Legs were yellow compared to pink of Herrings. The gulls flew up and I could see a black wing tip with slightly lighter (charcoal) inner wing and back. There was a small white mirror in the first primary and small white tips to the outer primaries. There was a white trailing edge to the inner wing. I did not note the color of the under wing. The bird did not come back with the Herrings, but it was back a half hour later when I left the area.

*Similar species:* The leg color and size eliminate other dark mantled gulls.

*Light:* Overcast sky *Distance:* 75 yards *Optics:* 10x binocular, 10x scope

*Previous experience:* Have seen several.

*References before/after viewing:* none.

*Time of notes:* none; *Final typing:* 3 hours.