

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

Species: Thayer's Gull (winter adult) Number: 1

Location: Lake Redrock below dam, Marion Co.

Observer: Ray Cummins 609 S. Main Street Centerville, IA.

Others before/with/after: Ann Johnson

Date: 12/24/93 Time Bird Seen: 10:00AM to 10:35PM

Habitant & circumstances: Open water below spillway.

Description: The Gull was in adult winter plumage. I picked this bird out because of it's small size compared to the other Herring Gulls present (40). It was smaller than any of the Herring gulls present, but still much larger than any of the numerous Ring-billed gulls. The head appeared more rounded than the Herring gulls and the heavy brown streaking on the nape and neck was more extensive and darker than any Herring present. The bill w/a red gonyx mark on the lower mandible was shorter and thinner w/less gonyx than the Herrings. The eye iris was dark not yellowish as in all the Herrings present. The eye iris was clearly visible from this distance. Although I didn't study the primaries closely, like I should have, they appeared to be the same color of black with the same white markings as the Herrings. The gull was not flushed. The legs were bright pink.

Description of voice: N/H.

Similarly appearing species: see above

Distance (how measured): 50-60yds

Optical equipment: Kowa 20x to 60x Spotting Scope.

Light: sunny excellent light.

Previous experience with species: Seen 2 in Iowa, probably more common than reported because of it's difficulty to identify at a distance.

Anyone have reservations?: no.

Books and references: none

Time of field notes: during sighting Final typing: 20 days
Signature: Ray Cummins Address: 609 S. Main St.

Date: 01-14-94

Centerville, Ia. 52544