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## DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake

Number: up to 4 first-winter

Date: 10 Nov-20 Dec 1990

Time:

Location: Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County

Observer(s): Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA

Other observer(s): m.ob.

Description of bird(s): On 10 Nov, while hunting off Jester Park, I noticed a medium-sized gull with a striking wing pattern feeding with several Bonaparte's Gulls. The gull was larger than the Bonaparte's, but slightly smaller than a nearby Ring-billed Gull. The upperwing was white except for a black bar in the outer primaries that also extended across the secondary coverts to just below the shoulder. The mantle was light gray. The underparts and tail were white, except for a thin dark band on the tip of the tail. The tail appeared slightly forked in flight. The legs and bill were black. The bill was short and thin, proportionately similar to the bill of a Bonaparte's Gull. The head was also white except for a small black spot just behind each eye. All of the kittiwakes present at the lake were first-winter birds matching the above description.

Two first-winter Black-legged Kittiwakes were present on the lake on 28 Nov and a peak of four were present on 9 Dec. The last were 2 birds on 20 Dec.

Optical equipment and viewing conditions: Viewing conditions were excellent, and I was often as close as 50 feet from one or more of the birds. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope and Bausch and Lomb 7x35 binoculars.

References consulted: none

Previous experience with species: I have seen several Black-legged Kittiwakes in Iowa, as well as thousands off the East Coast.

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? 10 Nov 1990(updated on 21 Dec 1990)