

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Laughing Gull How many? 1

Location? Babevek Access, Coralville Res., Johnson Co., Iowa

Type of Habitat? Open, wide part of reservoir with mud flats.

When? date(s): 10 Aug 1999 time: 6<sup>05</sup> to 6<sup>20</sup> pm

Who? your name and address: T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, Ia 52246

Others with you: James Huntington

Others before or after you: Jim Fuller reported bird to me at 4<sup>00</sup> pm

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Smaller than Ring-billed Gulls and larger than Forster's Terns next to it. White underparts, gray upper parts. Wings medium gray, darker than Ring-bills. Indistinct gray from eye back on head. I didn't see bill well - smaller than Ring-bill.

In flight, upper wing dark from white out, medium gray underneath inner wing with white trailing edge to secondaries. Under wing near white. White tail with thin black terminal band across most of tail. The bird was standing on a bar and flying (flapping) with Ring-bills for some time.

Similar species; how eliminated: 1st year - Franklin's Gull has more pattern to wings and more extensive tail band. 2nd year Franklin's would have less black in outer wing and more of a half-hood. This bird was not close enough to see the bill well or details of the tail band.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no  
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Sea behind us. About 1/4 mile away. 20x + 300m scope. Low binoc.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have seen this plumage in Iowa before.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Look at McBride during & after viewing.

How long before field notes made? 1 hr this form completed? Same

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).