

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Black-legged Kittiwake How many? 1Location? Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area - (Linn Co.)Type of habitat? artificial medium-sized lakeWhen? date(s): Nov. 16, 1991 time: 2:25 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. approximatelyWho? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: many observers before

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

The immature Kittiwake was with other gulls floating on the water. It was larger than Bonaparte's Gulls and smaller than Ring-Billed Gulls. It had a small black bill, dark legs observed in flight, and a large black smudge almost that was quite wide on its nape. It had a white tail with a black terminal tail band. It had a rounded white head with a large black spot behind its eye. It had black showing on the edges of the wings as it swam. I saw it fly some and the black "cross arms" (or the dark bars across the inner wings) were very noticeable on its white and grayish wings. It was a very noticeable gull from the others with its black nape and black on the wings.

Similar species and how eliminated: A Bonaparte's Gull lacks the black bar on its nape and does not have as much black in its wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Mostly cloudy at the 400 sighting and light behind us - good viewing,
40-50 yards estimated. 8X30 Binocs and 22x scope.Previous experience with species and similar ones:
Have seen many immature Black-legged Kittiwakes in Iowa now.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

R. T. Peterson's Birds: East of the Rockies.

How long before field notes made? 10:00 p.m. this form completed? Nov. 19, 1991
that night