

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Thayer's Gull - 2nd winter How many? 1Location? BLACK HAWK LAKE SAC COUNTYType of habitat? Natural Lake - near open water from aeratorWhen? date(s): Feb 11, 1996 time: 9:30 to 10:00 AMWho? your name and address: Ed. Thelen RR 8785 Spirit Lake, IA. 51360others with you: ROB Thelenothers before or after you: Pete Ernzen saw it on the 10th of Feb

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.

Large white Gull with a light grey mantle and tail band that diffused into the rest of the tail. Head appeared all white and contrasted with the mantle. While flying, preening and flapping its wings no coloration was observed under the primaries - appeared all white. Its legs were pink and the tip of its bill was black. Its bill did not seem large compared to its head. Its lesser wing coverts were very light colored grey - same as the mantle.

It was approx.  $\frac{1}{3}$  size of a greater Canada goose which was standing next to it at one point.

Similar species and how eliminated: Herring gull has dark lesser coverts and dark feathers under the wing tips. More distinct tail band & larger bill.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO.

If yes, explain:

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

Fair - distance a 600 ft (est.)  
45 x spotting scopePrevious experience with species and similar ones: None - I've seen herring gulls every yearReferences and persons consulted before writing description: RobbinsHow long before field notes made? same day this form completed? 2 daysMAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240