

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)  
November 4, 1990

11:30-11:32

Carter Lake, Pottawattamie County, Iowa and Douglas County, Nebraska

Before me: Babs and Loren Padelford

With me: BJ Rose, Dr. Rusty Cortelyou, Alice Rushton

Description:

Head snowy white with black eye and crescent shaped black smudge directly behind eye. Eye seemed large, perhaps because it was so dark and stood out on the pure white of the head. Small, delicate all-black bill. At the nape, a black collar with uneven smudgy edges. This black mark extended around the back of the nape to the shoulder area, i.e. looking at the bird head-on, the tips of this collar could be seen. Underparts entirely white. Mantle smoke-gray. Outer primaries black. In flight the black "M" formed by the primaries and some of the coverts was readily visible. Tail squarish, white with black terminal band. Leg color not noted. Size approximately the same as nearby Ring-billed Gulls, but this bird appeared much more delicate.

Behavior:

Swimming quite near shore, apparently resting, not feeding. Flew once approximately 20 yards and settled back on water.

Voice: not heard

Similar Species: Bonapartes Gull eliminated by black nape mark, black outer primaries and larger size. Sabine's Gull (1st winter) eliminated by lack of scaled appearance on back, black nape mark.

Equipment: 7 x 26 Binoculars  
30 power Basch & Lomb Scope  
Kowa Scope

Conditions: Sky completely overcast. Distance from bird: 100 feet (est).

All persons in agreement regarding Identification. Photos were taken by BJ Rose.

Tanya E. Bray  
1107 Ironwood Court, Apt. 186  
Bellevue, NE 68005