

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Black-legged Kittiwake How many? 1 imm.  
 Location? Saylorville Reservoir (Polk Co.) - from Jester Park  
 Type of habitat? Large, man-made lake  
 When? date(s): Oct. 28, 1987 time: 7:45am to 7:46am <sup>actually only a few seconds.</sup>  
 Who? your name and address: Robert K. Myers, R.R. 2, Box 153, Perry, Iowa 50220  
 others with you: \_\_\_\_\_  
 others before or after you: Steve Dinmore - before and after - photo

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.

I truthfully would probably not be documenting this bird on the basis of my brief sighting alone, but I hope my small input might help overall consideration of the sighting and probable documentation of what was most likely the same bird by Steve Dinmore. Steve also photographed the bird.

My brief glimpse came as I was searching thru many ring-billed gulls and ~~Bonaparte's~~ Bonaparte's gulls for the killiwake that was seen at this spot several times at earlier dates. As the birds moved west and south of me they became completely obscured by the rising sun. At the very periphery of this loss-of-viewing area one gull banked and showed striking black primaries and a heavy black carple bar across the inner wing. I also saw a black smudge or bar at the nape of the gull's neck. If not for the neck mark, I would have passed it off as another imm. boni. The bird flew into the sun's rays and was lost. I drove up and down the lake in Jester park to no avail and did not have time to cross to other side and look back with the sun.

Similar species and how eliminated: The dark bar on nape of neck would eliminate imm. Bonaparte's gull. (and Little + Ross' for that matter)

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

~~Poor~~ Poor at best - quartering toward <sup>rising</sup> sun. Distance approx. 100 yards (guess).

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen imm. Killiwake once before in Iowa

References and persons consulted before writing description: NONE

How long before field notes made? NONE MADE this form completed? Oct. 29, 1987

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