

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Lesser Black-backed Gull 1 ad bird How many? _____

Location? Lock + Dam 14, Scott Co.

Type of Habitat? Mississippi R., on ice in backwater near dam

When? date(s): 24 Dec 1995 time: 8:40 to 8:50 (approx)

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

Others with you: none

Others before or after you: _____

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.

I noticed a dark backed gull on ice with flock of gulls. It was definitely smaller than all Herring Gulls. I did not see it next to Ring-billed Gulls, but some were present. The mantle color was dark gray, not black. The head was smudged and streaked. The underparts were white. The bill had a mark on the lower mandible. When it stood up, I could see that the legs were yellow in contrast with the pink of Herring. I flushed the birds, but could not pick this bird up in flight. The bird settled back down on the ice and I could pick it out easily.

Similar species; how eliminated: Size, yellow legs, not pure black eliminates other dark-winged gulls.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NA
If yes, explain:

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

Cloudy, 75 yds (guess). 10x binocular

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen several in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? 7 hrs this form completed? same

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