

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species How many? LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL 1 IM

Location?_ BELOW SAYLORVILLE DAM POLK CO.

Type of habitat? ROCKY ISLAND IN RIVER

When? date(s): 11/4/98 Time: . 2:10 - 2:40 PM

Who? your name and address

LEE A. SCHOENEWE 518 W. 4th ST. SPENCER

Others with you NONE

Others before and after you NONE

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also describe voice and behavior. SCANNING A GROUP OF GULLS, I ZEROED IN ON A FIRST YEAR GULL WITH A COMPLETELY BLACK BILL, DARK EYE AND A DARKER SMUDGE THROUGH THE EYE AND AURICULAR AREA. THE BIRD WAS BETWEEN RING-BILLED AND HERRING IN SIZE. THE BILL WAS SMALLER THAN THE HERRING GULLS, THE LEGS WERE DULL PINKISH, AND THE BODY APPEARED LONGER + SLIMMER. THE BIRD HARASSED SEVERAL RING-BILLED GULLS AS I WATCHED AND THE PRIMARIES AND SECONDARIES WERE DARK, THE RUMP WAS LIGHTER THAN THE BACK, AND THE TAIL FEATHERS HAD A DARK BAND WITH THIN WHITE TIPS AND WHITE EDGES ON THE OUTER TAIL FEATHERS.

Similar species and how eliminated:

• HERRING - PATTERN OF WINGS, RUMP + TAIL IN FLIGHT

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?

If yes, explain: N/A

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: CLOUDY AFTERNOON; 50-100 YDS; 8X40 BINOCULAR; 20X-60X SCOPE

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

HERRING, CALIFORNIA + GREAT BLACKBACKED

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NATL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATELY
this form completed? 5 HOURS

Mail original form to field editor for this season.