

Thayer's Gull

12-20-98

Kelly J. McKay

We observed a first winter bird roosting with a large number of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. The bird had grayish-brown upperparts. However, the back and wings appeared "scalloped" due to the light feather edges. The bill was completely dark and the wing tips were much lighter than those of the Herring Gulls. The birds eventually flew and we observed a broad, light brown tail band. Also, the underwing primaries were much lighter than the darker primaries of the Herring Gulls. We were able to compare this bird to several first winter Herings. Other observers included Donna Blair and Mary Foulk. I used Leica Ultra 10X42 binoculars and a Kowa TSN-822 spotting scope. The bird was about 0.25 mile away.