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DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Thayer's/Iceland Complex (winter adult) How many? 1

Location? Lock and Dam 15, Davenport, Iowa. Rusty Pelican Restaurant

Type of Habitat? River

When? date(s): Jan. 17, 1992 time: 10:30 AM to 10:45 AM

Who? your name and address: Bob Cecil 1315 41st St. Des Moines, IA 50311

Others with you: NO

Others before or after you: Don't know

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 am submitting this documentation even though it is not sufficiently complete to be diagnostic.

Also present with the 1st winter Iceland Gull (?) was an adult, winter plumaged gull. Overall, it was very similar to the adult Herring and Ring-bills also present. Similarities included mantle color, which, as far as I could tell, was identical. Mantle overall was a light gray with snow white trailing edge to the wings. Tail was white.

The wingtip pattern was what caught my attention. There was much less darkening to the outer primaries than on accompanying gulls. It appeared that the black was limited to the leading edge of the first four primary tips. I noticed that the pattern, but not the color was very similar to the first winter bird seen at about the same time here. When viewed from underneath, the wingtips of the subject bird were white to the tips, with the exception of very narrow black tips at the tips of the primaries. This was very different from the adult Herring/Ring-bills which had substantial black towards the end of the underwings. Note that the color in the wingtips of the subject bird was black, not gray or even dark gray. It was black - the same as on the adult Ring-bills and Herrings. I looked at Grant, Iceland, but could separate them no further based upon the photos.

Unfortunately, I was unable to determine comparative size, eye color, leg color, bill shape, or other features of the bird.

Similar species; how eliminated:

See above discussion.

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

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
Sun behind bird and off to side, Distance 100' to 100 yards. 20x scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No experience with adult Thayer's or Iceland.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Grant.

How long before field notes made? at time this form completed? 48 hours.

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