

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species How many? GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1 FIRST WINTER

Location?_ GULL POINT - WEST LAKE OKOBOTT, DICKINSON Co.

Type of habitat? SAND AND ROCKY POINT ON NATURAL LAKE

When? date(s): 11/8/97 Time: . 3:40 - 4:30 PM

Who? your name and address LEE A. SCHOENEWE
518 W. 4th ST. SPENCER, IA. 51301

Others with you NONE

Others before and after you

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. THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 150 GULLS ON THE POINT AND IN THE CALM WATER OFF THE POINT. THREE LARGE, DARK IMMATURE GULLS WERE TOGETHER WITH WHAT LOOKED TO BE A SECOND YEAR HERRING GULL. ONE OF THE IMMATURE GULLS WAS LARGER THAN THE OTHER TWO AND LIGHTER ON THE HEAD, NECK AND BREAST. AT 50 YDS, IN CLOSE COMPARISON, THE BILL WAS ALL DARK AND LARGER AND HEAVIER THAN THE HERRING GULLS. THE SIZE DIFFERENTIAL TO THE HERRING GULLS WAS ABOUT THAT OF THE HERRING GULLS TO THE RING-BILLED GULLS. THE MANTLE FEATHERS HAD WHITE EDGING WHICH GAVE THE BACK A SCALY LOOK COMPARED TO THE MORE UNIFORMLY DARK IMMATURE HERRINGS.

Similar species and how eliminated: HERRING GULL BY SIZE AND CLOSE COMPARISON; GLAUCOUS GULL BY DARK PRIMARIES AND TAIL BAND

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? -

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: CLOUDY PM 150-50 YDS 8X40 BINOCULARS
20X-60X SCOPE

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

IMMATURE HERRING, THAYER'S AND GLAUCOUS GULLS

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF N. AM.

How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATELY

this form completed? 24 HOURS

Mail original form to field editor for this season.

IN FLIGHT THE PATTERN RESEMBLED AN IMMATURE RING-BILLED GULL WITH WHITE ON THE RUMP AND A DARK TAIL BAND. THE PRIMARIES WERE DARK AND THE BODY AND HEAD LIGHTER. THE HEAD WAS ESPECIALLY LIGHTER BETWEEN THE BILL AND THE EYE, WHICH WAS DARK AND STOOD OUT FROM THE OVERALL LIGHTER HEAD COMPARED TO THE TWO IMMATURE HERRINGS.