

California Gull

5 Oct 1998

Red Rock Res., Marion Co., IA

Aaron Brees

to 4 Nov; IBL 69:35

Record Number: 98-28

Classification: A-D

DUCUMENTATION

Aaron Brees, 1005 W 3rd Ave, Apt 78, Indianola 50125 [2/28/99]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 69:35

Records Committee: IBL

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, A well seen and described bird, with nice comparisons to first year Herring Gull.

A-D, Multiple sightings for a cumulative positive ID.

A-D, Herring Gull can have dark tipped pale bill by late in first winter, but not in Oct. Size, shape, and dark secondary coverts (double bar), along with lack of pale window in inner primaries, eliminate Herring. Lesser Black-backed eliminated by bill color. Tail pattern description would be useful versus Lesser Black-backed Gull.

A-D, Bill and pattern of wing and tail on 1st year bird eliminate Herring Gull.

98-28

Brees  
1025 W 3rd Ave Apt 18  
Indianola, IA 50125

California Gull - 1st basic

Red Rock, Marion Co.

10/5 - 11/4

I saw this bird on four different days. I assume it was the same bird each time, and every time it was further downstream on the lake.

- Notes:
- larger than Ring-billed Gulls
  - overall plumage a dark brown similar to first year Herring Gull
  - bill tip is black and clearly defined ( $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$  of bill length)
  - remainder of bill a dull pink
  - primaries very dark with no visible windows
  - double dark bars on secondaries/covert area
  - mantle brown, rump paler

10/8

- smaller than Herring Gulls
- all first year Herings have 75-100% dark bills

10/26

- Herings are thicker, bulkier
- California sits more buoyantly on the water with tail and wingtips sitting much higher off the water