

Black-headed Gull

11 Oct 1998

Spirit L., Dickinson Co., IA

Lee A. Schoenewe, Ed Thelen

also 15 Oct, 8 Nov; P-0617, IBL 69:35

Record Number: 98-27

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATIONS

Lee A. Schoenewe (11 Oct), 518 W. 4th St., Spencer 51301  
[2/28/99]

Ed Thelen (15 Oct, 8 Nov), 15362 250th Ave., Spirit L.  
[2/28/99]

PHOTOGRAPH

Ed Thelen, P-0617

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 69:35

Records Committee: IBL 69:89

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, The red bill should separate this bird from any other small gull in winter plumage. Other features well described, except size discrepancy (Thelen "1/2 size of Ring-billed" and Schoenewe "only slightly smaller"). How late did these birds stay in Dickinson County?

A-D, Three adults is interesting. Are we getting a little colony established? Where?

A-D, I saw the bird on 10/28.

A-D, Bill and leg color, size, and wing pattern eliminate Little and Bonaparte's gulls.

RE-VOTE (at meeting, 21 Mar 1999 with photo): 7 A-P



Black-headed Gull P-0617  
Spirit L., Dickinson Co., IA  
Oct 1998 Ed Thelen ♀ 8-27

98-27

## DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species How many? BLACK-HEADED GULL - 1 BASIC PLUMAGE

Location? CRANDALL'S BEACH ON SPIRIT LAKE, DICKINSON CO.

Type of habitat? LAKE SHORE

When? date(s): 10/11/98 Time: . 3:25 - 3:40 PM

Who? your name and address LEE A. SCHOENEWE  
518 W. 4<sup>TH</sup> 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. THIS GULL WAS WITH RING-BILLED GULLS ON THE SHORE LINE AND ONLY SLIGHTLY SMALLER. THE HEAD WAS WHITE WITH A DARK EYE AND A DARK AURICULAR PATCH. THE BILL AND LEGS WERE A DARK BLOOD RED. THE MANTLE WAS LIGHT GRAY. WHEN THE BIRD FLEW, I COULD SEE THE WHITE OUTER WEDGE ON THE PRIMARIES AND THE DARK SMUDGING OF THE INNER PRIMARIES AND SECONDARIES ON THE UNDERWING.

Similar species and how eliminated: BONAPARTE'S GULL - SIZE AND DARK UNDERWING ON INNER PRIMARIES + SECONDARIES

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: CLOUDY AFTERNOON LIGHT AND 30-100 YARDS  
w/ 8X40 BINOCULARS

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

IMMATURE AND ADULT ALTERNATE PLUMAGE BIRDS OVER LAST SEVERAL YEARS

References and persons consulted before writing description: NONE

How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATELY  
this form completed? 3 HOURS

Mail original form to field editor for this season.

- ALSO SEEN 10/13; 10/17 + 10/18 - SINGLE BIRDS AT GRADE ON SPIRIT LAKE
- 2 ADULTS IN BASIC PLUMAGE SEEN AT GRADE ON NORTH END OF SPIRIT LAKE 4/8/98 WITH ED THELEN



DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

98-27

What species? Common Blackheaded Gull How many? 3

Location? NORTH End of Spirit Lake - Dickinson County

Type of Habitat? Marsh connecting Large Natural Lake

When? date(s): OCT 15-1998 - 1 NOV 3-1998 - 2 time: OCT - Noon NOV - 2:30 to \_\_\_\_\_

Who? your name and address: Ed Thelen 15362 250th Ave Spirit Lake

Others with you: Lee Schonewe

Others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Observed a total of 3 blackheaded gulls on the N. End Spirit Lake. (1) on Oct 15 on the fishing pier and (2) on the north side of the west end of the "grade" or road at the north end of Spirit Lake. They were all winter plumaged adults.

Approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  size of nearby Ring-billed gulls while resting the red bill and blackish ear spot were evident. When they flew the long white wedge on the outer wings and dark, dusky undersides inner primaries were evident. - will send photo when set developed.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Bonapartes - smaller with black bill and lack dusky underwings

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Excellent - 20 yards (est)  
SUN ON OUR BACK - Binoculars 8x44

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

- I've seen them every year They've been seen  
- Bonapartes common in spring & fall up here

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None

How long before field notes made? \_\_\_\_\_ this form completed? 1 week

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

TJM - I took some photos of this bird, if they turn out I'll send them to you. Ed