

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/28/00

Black-headed Gull

1 Oct 1999

Spirit L., Dickinson Co., IA

*Schoenewe, *J. Fuller, R. Allen (photo)

P-0629, P-0630, P-0635, IBL 70:38, 144

Record Number: 99-26

Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATIONS

Lee A. Schoenewe (1 Oct), 518 W. 4th St., Spencer [4/14/00]

Jim Fuller (4 Oct), 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240

PHOTOGRAPHS

Jim Fuller, 4 Oct, P-0630

Reid I. Allen, 8 Oct, P-0629

Anthony Hertzal, 9 Oct, IBL 70:38

Paul Hertzal, 13 Nov, P-0635

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 70:37

Records Committee: IBL 70:145

VOTE: 7 A-P

A-P, nice photos.

Black-headed Gull P-0629
Spirit L., Dickinson Co., IA
8 Oct 1999 Reid I. Allen 99-26



Black-headed Gull, Spirit L., IA, 8 October 1999, Reid Allen photo

Black-headed Gull P-0630
Spirit L., Dickinson Co., IA
4 Oct 1999 Jim Fuller 99-26



Black-headed Gull, Spirit L., IA, 4 October 1999, Jim Fuller photo

99-26

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species How many? BLACK-HEADED GULL - 1
 Location? NORTH SHORE SPIRIT LAKE, DICKINSON CO.
 Type of habitat? ROCK JETTY, FISHING PIER & SHALLOW BAY + MARSH
 When? date(s): 10/1/99 Time: . 1:20 PM - 1:40 PM
 Who? your name and address LEE A. SCHOENEWE
 518 W. 4th ST. SPENCER

Others with you NONE

Others before and after you NUMEROUS SUBSEQUENT SIGHTINGS

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. NOTED RING-BILLED SIZE GULL WITH DARK AURICULAR SPOT, RED LEGS & RED BILL. FLIGHT PATTERN SHOWED WHITE OUTER PRIMARY WEDGE AND DARK SMOKING ON UNDERWING

Similar species and how eliminated: BONAPARTE'S - BILL COLOR AND UNDERWING SMOKING

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: OVERCAST; 50-100 YDS; 8x40 BINOCULARS
 20x-60x SCOPE

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

ANNUAL SIGHTINGS SINCE 1995

References and persons consulted before writing description:

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

Mail original form to field editor for this season.

ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS AT SAME LOCATION:

10/9/99

10/17/99

10/31/99 - 2 BIRDS PRESENT

11/6/99 - 2 BIRDS PRESENT

11/11/99 - 1 BIRD

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: Common Black-headed Gull (Adult Basic)

LOCATION: Big Spirit Lake, north end. (Dickinson County)

DATE & TIME: 4 October, 1999 (1:30-2:15 PM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240

OTHERS: Originally reported by Lee Schoenewe. Later seen by MOB.

DESCRIPTION: The bird was noticeably smaller in general size than two Ring-billed Gulls that were in close proximity. It also seemed to be sleeker, and have a smaller head and bill. The general coloration was light gray upperparts and white underparts. The head was rounded and unmarked white, except for a dark auricular spot behind the dark eye. The bill was relatively thin and a dull red, except the tip end which was dark. The legs were also a red color. The mantle and folded wing were a light gray, which was the same color as the nearby Ring-billed Gulls. The primaries on the folded wing were black. In flight, the upperwing showed white outer primaries with dark tips and the rest of the upperwing was light gray. The underwing showed white in the two outer primaries with black webbing between them, and the rest of the primaries were black. The tail was entirely white and rounded on the end.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Adult Bonaparte's Gull is generally smaller and in basic plumage has a smaller bill which is black (not red) and shows white (not black) primaries in the underwing.

OPTICS & VIEWING CONDITIONS: It was midday, bright and sunny, and I was looking from southeast to southwest at less than 50 feet as the bird sat on a fishing pier. Both 8.5 X 44 Swift Audubon binoculars and KOWA TSN-4 telescope (20 X) were used from the car. As the bird flew briefly it was from 30-150 feet, also viewed from the car with binoculars. Photographs were taken from car.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I have seen adults in alternate plumage in this same area on three previous occasions, and a juvenile once before.

REFERENCES & FIELD NOTES: Immediate field notes were made in car. National Geographic Guide looked at during viewing period. This form was typed on 14 October, 1999.