

Bonaparte's Gull
1 Jan 1989
Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA
*Hoskins
IBL 59:43, 61:86

Record Number: 89-06
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Nelson Hoskins

REFERENCES

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 59:43

Records Committee: IBL 61:86

VOTE: 3 A-D, 4 NA

NA. This brief description doesn't fully eliminate other possibilities.

NA. While I feel this record is probably correct, the amount of description seems inadequate to establish a record date. Although size was described as smaller than Ring-billed, there was no attempt to quantify how much. Would have been helpful to mention tail. Observer evidently had no experience with winter plumage Bonys.

A-D. Black spot eliminates Franklin's Gull.

NA. Probably a Bonaparte's, but no consideration given to possibility of a Common Black-headed Gull. I need more details to accept this record.

A-D. Incomplete description. Size and head pattern fit. Other very rare gulls possible. Not surprising to see this species linger longer each year.

A-D. Dark spot behind eye and black tipped primaries enough to accept this record but more description of rest of wing pattern and coloration would have helped. Surely more was observed than what was written in the documentation.

NA. Bill described as black (not black-tipped) and no mention of nape mark of Kittiwake, i.e., description suggests Bonaparte's. However similarity to Kittiwake not mentioned; at this date either is likely.

SENT TO: Nelson Hoskins, 508 Shaul, Ottumwa, IA 52501 [5/31/89]

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

89-06

What species? Bonaparts Gull How many? 1

Location? Ottumwa, Ia.

Type of Habitat? Des Moines River, Below Hydro-dam

When? date(s): 6-1-89 time: 8:45 to 8:55

Who? your name and address: Nelson Hoskins, 508 Shaul, Ottumwa, Ia.

Others with you: None

Others before or after you: None

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.

Small gull, smaller than ring-billed which were also in the area. Black bill, dark or black spot behind eye. Primaries also black tipped.

Similar species; how eliminated: Franklin's gull - above mentioned markings.

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

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

Lighting good - sunny, mostly clear, 30-40 feet with Celestron 7x50 binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: only seen previously in summer

References and persons consulted before writing description: Audubon Master Guide to Birding.

How long before field notes made? 10 min this form completed? 10 hrs.

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