

Laughing Gull  
24 Mar 1941  
Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie Co., IA  
B. F. Stiles  
Stiles 1941

Record Number: 81-BC  
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Stiles, B.F. 1941. The Laughing Gull in Pottawattamie County.  
IBL 11:36.

VOTE (1981): 2-III, 3-IV, 2-V

V, Not enough description of wing pattern. No data on how well  
bird observed. Size and head marking 'ify'.

V, only detail: 'black primaries'. Laughing Gull is 2-3"  
smaller than r-b, not same size as author states. (This is easily  
seen in field).

III, Single observer sight record. Description is short and  
without detail. To its credit, it is tentative.

III, Careful observer, bird in adult plumage with dark  
primaries. Good size comparison.

81-BC

Stiles, B. F. 1941. The Laughing Gull in Pottawattamie County. IBL 11:36.

**The Laughing Gull in Pottawattamie County.**—On March 25, 1941, I saw a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) at Lake Manawa, Lewis Township, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. The bird was not collected and consequently does not settle the question of whether or not the bird should be included in the Iowa list. Anderson listed it but DuMont thought his records had been confused with the first-year Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) in which the primaries are black. The A.O.U. 'Check-List', lists it as casual in Iowa. The bird I saw had black primaries and was noticeably larger than either the Franklin's Gull or the Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). It was in a flock of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and appeared to be nearly the same size. I could also see that the black on the head extended farther down the ventral than the dorsal side. Most authorities agree that it never leaves salt water. It is likely that this sight record will not settle the question and we must await the time a specimen will be collected.—  
BRUCE F. STILES, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

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