

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/24/00

Black-headed Gull

16 Jul 1997

Jemmerson Slough, Dickinson Co., IA

\*Mark Proescholdt

IBL 67:124, 68:86, Proescholdt 1998

Record Number: 97-27

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb 50148 [\*10/1/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 67:124

Records Committee: IBL 68:86

Proescholdt, M. 1998. Another Black-headed Gull in Dickinson County. IBL 68:103

VOTE: 7 A-D

Stiles, F. G. 1972. Age and sex determination in Rufous and Allen hummingbirds. *Condor* 74:25-32.

Stone, L. 1995. In from the cold for lost hummingbird. *Des Moines Register*, 29 Nov 1995.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

## RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN DICKINSON COUNTY

RUTH WINEBRINNER

On a beautiful summer morning, 21 August 1996, my husband Ed and I were enjoying breakfast on the deck of our home on the north shore of Spirit Lake in Dickinson County. My husband commented that he had seen a funny looking hummingbird that appeared brown. In a few minutes I saw the bird at our feeder and immediately got out my binoculars and field guide. After watching the bird for several minutes, I was sure that I was looking at a male Rufous Hummingbird. The most obvious difference from the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that regularly visit our feeders was that much of its body including its back, tail, and belly were copper orange in color. The throat was a bright iridescent reddish orange with a band of white separating the throat from the copper orange of the belly.

I watched the bird for about an hour that afternoon as it fed at the hummingbird feeder and then flew to a nearby tree where it perched and preened. I called the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the next morning Ed Thelen came by and photographed the bird. On the 23rd, the bird spent much of its time perched on a barbed wire fence 15 feet from the feeder and challenged any hummingbird that came close to the feeder. My husband raises flowers, and the Rufous Hummingbird took over a bed of red salvia near the feeder. He also visited the grape jelly we had at our feeder station. I last saw the Rufous Hummingbird about 10 a.m. on the 23rd but during the 2 1/2 days he was there, I did little else but watch him. He brought much joy to me and the others who got to see him during this once-in-a-lifetime happening.

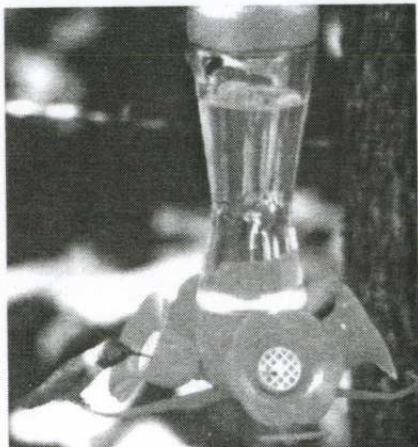


Fig. 1. Rufous Hummingbird at Spirit Lake, 22 Aug. 1996. Ed Thelen.

24535 104th Street, Spirit Lake, IA 51360



## ANOTHER BLACK-HEADED GULL IN DICKINSON COUNTY

MARK PROESCHOLDT

In 1997, for the third summer out of four years, an adult Black-headed Gull appeared in Dickinson County. The first sighting in Dickinson County was August 1994 when two adults and one juvenile were seen. In June and July of 1996, an adult was seen, and in July 1997 an adult was seen.



On the morning of 16 July 1997, Ed Thelen literally tracked me down in my car when he caught up to me with his vehicle and told me that he had just seen an adult Black-headed Gull at the Jemmerson Slough area in Dickinson County. This gull had been seen by others for some days prior to 16 July and had been reported to the Birdline.

I located the gull around 10:20 a.m. It was at a small wet area across the road from Jemmerson Slough where there was land available for gulls to roost. The gull had a noticeable dark brown head similar to the shape of a Bonaparte's Gull's hood that ended higher up on the back of the neck than does the hood of a Franklin's Gull. It had a dull red bill, red inside its mouth, and was smaller than Ring-billed Gulls that were with it. It had a light gray back. From a distance of 130 yards, I could see no white eye crescents with my scope while the eye crescents of nearby Franklin's Gulls were very vivid.

I saw it fly over a nearby pond, and the wings looked long. I could see dark smudges at the ends of the underwings and also white slashes or small wedges (like a Bonaparte's Gulls) at the tips of the upper wings. It also had a bright white leading edge on the upper wings.

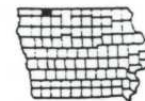
This is the fifth record of a Black-headed Gull in Iowa. The other two sightings were November 1989 at Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County and November 1994 at Big Creek State Park in Polk County.

P. O. Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148

## SUMMER SABINE'S GULL RECORD

LEE A. SCHOENEWE

On 8 July 1997, the Northern Iowa Prairie Lakes Audubon chapter met at Mini Wakan State Park at the north end of Spirit Lake in Dickinson County. After a picnic supper and meeting, the group discussed doing a little birding. On 4 July, I had found, for the second year in a row, a Black-headed Gull hanging out with about 100 Franklin's Gulls at the swan pen wetland enclosure at the Hogsback WPA area (see note by Proescholdt in this issue). Some people had never seen the gull, and it is always a good spot, so off we went.



We set up the scope and found the Black-headed Gull. As people took turns with the view in the scope, I scanned the other gulls in the area. I then noticed a small gull flying over the water and alighting on the surface to feed. The behavior along with the distinctive black, white, and gray wedge-shaped pattern of the wings and back in flight identified it as a Sabine's Gull.

97-27

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Common Black-headed Gull How many? 1 adultLocation? Jemmerson Slough area - Dickinson CountyType of habitat? Small water area with land for gulls to roost onWhen? date(s): July 16, 1997 time: <sup>app.</sup> 10:20 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: noneothers before or after you: Ed Thelen

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Ed Thelen saw this earlier than me and told me about the gull. It was at the same area as last year.

This gull had a noticeable dark brown hood that ends higher up on the back of the neck than a Franklin's Gull hood does. It was more the shape of a Bonaparte's Gull hood. It had a light gray back. It had a dull red bill, red inside its mouth, and was smaller than Ring-billed Gulls that it was with. It was doing lots of preening. I could see no eye crescents that were noticeable from this distance while the eye crescents of Franklin's Gulls that were present were very vivid.

I saw it fly over a nearby pond. It looked like it had long wings. I could see the dark smudges under the underwings at the ends of the wings and also the white slashes or small wedges (like a Bonaparte's Gull) on the upper wings at the wing tips. It had bright white leading edge on its wings on the upper wings.

Similar species and how eliminated:

No other gull quite like this one. A Bonaparte's Gull is smaller, has a black bill, and lacks the dark smudge ~~under~~ <sup>on</sup> the underwings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny, sun at side, good light. 130 yards away estimated when on mud-flats and 160-200 yards away in flight. 22x Scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> summer in four years that I've seen an ♀ adult here.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic guide Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? while viewing this form completed? July 18, 1997