

Laughing Gull
15 Jul 1991
Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co., IA
*Bery Engebretsen
IBL 61:115, 62:70

Record Number: 91-22
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Bery Engebretsen, 12825 NW 127th St, Des Moines, IA 50325

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 61:115
Records Committee: IBL 62:70

VOTE: 7-A-D

A-D, I believe the document to be sufficient to be acceptable.

A-D, Adequate description. Most likely the same bird as at Red Rock Res.

A-D, Convincing description. Smaller size, uniform brown coloration, description of tail band, and scaling effect on back eliminates other gulls.

A-D, The broad black tail band including the lateral feathers, and bill size and shape compared directly to Ring-billed Gulls make this ID sound in my judgement. Viewing conditions, 30 yds for 15 minutes in good light, are also supportive.

A-D, Likely same bird as 91-12. Should also have seen secondary bar and white trailing edge to secondaries. Other features provide good detail for this distinctive plumage.

A-D, All marks consistent with species while eliminating any other species.

A-D, Sufficient details from an experienced birder.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

91-22

1. Species Laughing Gull 2. Number: 1

3. Location Saylorville

4. Date: 7/15/91 5. Time Bird seen: 7⁵⁰ P.M to 8⁰⁵ P.M

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): A dark juvenile gull, smaller than Ring bills (3) with it. Uniformly dark gray-brown, except a bit lighter on belly & throat. Bird a bit larger & slightly down curved. (See sketch) Back with distinct lighter edge to feathers. Tail with broad subterminal black band, including lateral tail feathers. Primaries very dark, white rump.

7. Description of voice, if heard: _____

8. Description of behavior: standing, preening, stretching

9. Habitat - general: Saylorville Lake
specific: parking lot (closed) at Sand piper Beach

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: large bill, no suggestion of a hood, scaled back & complete, broad dark tail band suggest Laughing, rather than Franklin's.

11. Distance (how measured)? 30 yds (estimate) 12. Optical equipment: 30X scope

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): sun to right
good light

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: 10 years in South Florida

15. Other observers: Bird left prior to arrival of Armstrong's, Allens, but juvenile laughing Gull reported from Red Rock the next day.

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: ~~Kaufman~~

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Kaufman, Nat. Geographic

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 hours

Ray Eppelstein Address: 12825 NW 127th Ct
Signature

Date: 7/20/91 City, State: DSM, Iowa 50325

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STANDARD BIRD OBSERVATION CHECKLIST

91-22

1. Species: Red-winged Blackbird
 2. Location: Wagon Wheel Lake
 3. Date: 7/12/81
 4. Time Bird seen: 7:20 PM to 8:00 PM

5. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, head and bill, and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): Red winged Blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus) with a dark breast band, a black head, including lateral tail feathers. Tail with distinct lighter edge to feathers. Bill a bit longer & slightly more curved (2nd stage) on only 1st year.



6. Description of voice, if heard: _____
 7. Description of behavior: standing, preening, stretching
 8. Habitat - general: Wagon Wheel Lake
 9. Species: Agelaius phoeniceus (Red-winged Blackbird)

10. Statistically separating species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: Large bill, no suggestion of a hood, black breast & complete black band tail band suggest Red-winged Blackbird rather than Cowbird.

11. Distance (how measured)? 10 yds (estimated)
 12. Light (day, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Good light
 13. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: South Florida
 14. Other observers: Bill Lett gave a record of Agelaius phoeniceus (Red-winged Blackbird) but I was not sure of the bird's sex.
 15. Did the other agree with your identification?

16. Other observers who independently identified this bird: _____
 17. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Kaufman, Wet. Geographic

18. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 hrs.

Address: 15833 NW 17th Ct
 City, State: Fort Lauderdale, FL 33322
 Date: 7/12/81
 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]