

Franklin's Gull
25 Dec 1988
Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA
*S. Dinsmore
also 9 Jan, 21 Jan-2 Feb 1989; IBL 59:51, 77

Record Number: 88-36
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Steve Dinsmore, 25 Dec 1988 - 2 Feb 1989

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 59:51
Records Committee: IBL 59:77

VOTE: 6 A-D, 1 abstain

A-D. Although I am convinced by this description, two important field marks are not included: bill shape and white in wing tips (terminal and between tip and mantle).

A-D. There is a slight possibility this could be a Laughing Gull, but highly improbable. Documentation does not mention white apical spots or the white dividing band at the base of the primaries. These should have been noticed since the red legs were seen. The rest of the description supports Franklin's enough for an acceptance.

SENT TO: Steve Dinsmore.

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Franklin's Gull

How Many?1-2 ad.

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.

Habitat?large reservoir with some open water

Date?25 Dec 1988-2 Feb 1989

Time?first seen at approx. 2:40 p.m. on 25 Dec

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames

Others who saw bird:m.ob.

Description of bird:Only one bird was seen on 25 Dec, 9 Jan, but two were seen together from 21 Jan-2 Feb. Both birds were in full breeding plumage. Both birds were smaller than a Ring-billed Gull. The underparts and tail were white. The mantle and wings were slate gray, darker than those of a Ring-billed Gull. The wingtips were black. The legs and bill were bright red. The head was black. Both birds also showed prominent white eye crescents and a hint of pink color on the breast. The birds were usually seen in the company of up to 150 Ring-billed and Herring gulls.

Similar species and how eliminated:The dark mantle, black hood, white eye crescents, small size, and red bill and legs eliminates all other gulls.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were very good with excellent light on most dates. Estimated viewing distance varied, but was as close as 150 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen many Franklin's Gulls in Iowa, and I am familiar with other dark-headed gulls.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?written on 26 Dec, updated after last sighting