

Thayer's Gull

3 Jan 1987

Lock and Dam 19, Lee Co., IA

*S. Dinsmore, *Moore

ad.; IBL 57:56, 58:74

Record Number: 87-02
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATIONS

Steve Dinsmore

Francis Moore

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 57:56

Records Committee: IBL 58:74

VOTE: 3-II, 3-III, 1-IV

III, This sounds like a good record, but it is interesting to note some of the inconsistencies in the two documentations. Dinsmore described the outer primaries on the upper wing as being "entirely dark", but Moore mentioned how the "large white spots on the first and second primaries really stood out..." Both describe the mostly white tip on the underwing, a good mark to separate from Herring. Moore also mentioned a smaller head and dainty bill compared to Herrings.

II, Should be combined with 86-26. Distance: Dinsmore, "300-400 yards"; Moore, "100-125 yds"; Wingtips: Dinsmore, "outermost two or three primaries entirely dark"; Moore, "large white spots on first and second primaries really stood out."
"II, The Dinsmore documentation does not help a whole lot in this record. The Cecil documentation (86-26) is well done and describes the bird very well as an Adult Thayer's. I reported and documented what I saw and more or less corroborates the Cecil documentation.

IV, I'm not sure how to positively eliminate possibility of Iceland.

III, Primary pattern well described.

III, mainly primary pattern.

REVOTE (at meeting, 30 May 1987): 7-III

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Thayer's Gull

How Many?1 adult

Location?Pool 19, Keokuk, Lee Co.

Habitat?feeding below dam with numerous Herring and Ring-billed gulls

Date?3 Jan 1987

Time?seen around noon

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:Bob Cecil, Francis Moore

Description of bird:The bird was seen only in flight where it appeared identical to an adult Herring Gull except for the wing pattern. The mantle appeared the same color as the mantle of a Herring Gull, but the wingtips were much lighter. From above, the outermost two or three primaries were entirely dark while the rest of the primaries were dark only near the tip. From underneath, the tip of the wing appeared totally white except for dark tips to a couple of the primaries. I was not able to see bill color or size or the head shape.

Similar species and how eliminated:The very pale underwing eliminates Herring Gull (there should be considerable dark color on the underside of the primaries in Herring Gull).

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were good with the sky partly cloudy and the sun mostly behind us. Estimated viewing distance was 300-400 yards at the closest. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I saw one other adult Thayer's Gull this fall at Rathbun Res., plus numerous first-winter Thayer's Gulls.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?immediately

How long before this form was completed?24 hours

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

87-02

What species? Thayer's Gull How many? 1 ad.

Location? Below lock and dam 19, Keokuk, Lee Co., Iowa

Type of Habitat? Open water below lock and dam 19

When? date(s): January 3, 1989 time: 10:30 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703

Others with you: Steve Dinsmore, Ames, Robert Cecil, Keokuk

Others before or after you: None that I know of

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.

This bird was seen flying with Herring and Ring-billed Gulls below the lock and dam. It was about the same size or slightly smaller than Herring Gulls flying nearby. The mantle seemed to have more of a bluish cast to it which made it slightly darker than the Herring's. It was much ~~larger~~ larger than Ring-billed Gulls nearby. Large white spots on the first and second primaries really stood out as the bird turned. The under wings were a whitish to very pale gray with a little darker gray in the underside of the primaries and each of the tips of the under side of the primaries had just the tips darker (a dark gray, not black). The white spots in the first and secondaries showed in the under wing as well. There was a wide white trailing edge to the secondaries and all but the first 6 or 7 primaries. The upper surface of the primaries had dark gray rays running to the tips but the darkness was not extensive. The head was not large looking as the Herring's and the bill was yellow and looked dainty compared to the Herring's. There was some dark flecking on the head behind the eye and on the neck. The feet were pink. The tail was white. The upper tail ~~Similar species, how eliminated:~~ coverts were white. The under tail coverts belly and breast was white also.

Herring Gull has more black in the primaries with a grayer mantle, a larger bill and heavier and bigger head. The under surface of the primaries of a Herring is also darker and has the darkness well into the primaries from the tips.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
If yes, explain:

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

Sunny from approx. 100-125 yds. at closest using 10x40 binoculars and 20x60 telescope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen + identified 1 im. Thayer's Gull before. Lots of experience with Herring and Ring-billed Gull.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 12 hrs. this form completed? 2 days

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