

Thayer's Gull
1 Jan 1988
Lock and Dam 15, Scott Co., IA
*Kent
IBL 58:56, 59:77

Record Number: 88-27
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Thomas H. Kent

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 58:56
Records Committee: IBL 59:77

VOTE: 6-A-D, 1-abstain

A-D. Description fits a light first winter Thayer's Gull. The gull was seen at close range with many Herring and a first winter Glaucous Gull to compare it to. First winter Iceland Gull eliminated by dark terminal tail band. First winter Glaucous-winged Gull by size (slightly bigger than a Herring) and terminal band.

A-D. Convincing description of first-winter Thayer's Gull. White underside of flight feathers and uniform color of upperparts without dark primaries or a light "window" eliminate Herring and Iceland gulls.

A-D. Comments describe first year Thayer's Gull. Good study.

A-D. What happened to this doc. for 11 months?

A-D. Adequate details. I suppose we are at the point in Iowa when ID of Thayer's is simplified due to the assumption that these birds indeed occur on a regular basis with Herring Gulls at our large reservoirs. I can believe that the absence of dark feathers in the primaries is probably adequate to ID these birds, as long as the bill is dark, coloration even, and tail band is not strongly demarcated.

SEND TO: none

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

88-27

What species? Thayer's Gull 1st year How many? 1

Location? Lock & Dam 15, Davenport, Scott Co., IA

Type of Habitat? Mississippi R.

When? date(s): 1 Jun 1988 time: 10¹⁵ to 10⁴⁵

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA 52240

Others with you: Francis Moore, Dick Kramer

Others before or after you: _____

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.

First saw bird above dam when large flock of resting gulls (Herring's) were flushed by a gun shot. We picked out light brown gull with silvery primaries and secondaries and Francis and I followed it as it flew down river to dam. We drove below dam and soon found a similar bird. It was consistently Herring Gull size or smaller. Primaries and secondaries were always white from below. Upper wing, body, tail light brown. I did not see any black in wing tips. Tail had darker wide terminal band. Bill appeared all black, but not seen well. There were many first year Herring's that were darker with dark wing tips.

We also saw, but not at same time, a larger, slightly lighter gull with out tail band that we identified as a first year Glaucous Gull. It was

Similar species; how eliminated: Consistently larger than Herring and heavier bodied. Uniform color, white flight feathers from below separate bird from Herring. Size and tail band separate from Glaucous.

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

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

side to back light, full sun. 10x binoculars + 20x scope. 50-100 yards.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen several

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? immediately after viewing this form completed? 5 hrs.

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