

Great Black-backed Gull
17 Dec 1994
Red Rock Res., Marion Co., IA
*A. Johnson
1st yr; IBL 65:42, 49, 82

Record Number: 94-50
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Ann Johnson, 532 120th Ave., Norwalk 50211

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 65:42, 49
Records Committee: IBL 65:82

VOTE: 6 A-D, 1 NA

A-D, Reluctant A-D. Perception of size difficult if not impossible at 500 yds. Were Herring's present for comparison, or not?

NA, This is rather sketchy. Distance in troubling; was observer sure other birds were Herrings not Ring-bills? Were other gulls indeed even present for a size comparison, and, if not, what was size based on?

94-50

**DOCUMENTATION FORM
UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS IN IOWA**

Species: Great Black-backed Gull - first winter

Location: Whitebreast Point, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion Co., IA

Habitat: Flying over open water and ice

Date: 17 December, 1994 **Time:** 10:40 to 10:45

Name and Address: Ann Johnson, 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211

Other Observers: None at the time. Had been seen the previous day by Tim Schantz.

Description of bird: Giant-sized gull with white head, white tail with broad black tailband. Mantle and scapulars scaly to checkered black and white. Primaries and secondaries dark. Massive black bill.

Similar species and how eliminated: Large size (larger than Herring) eliminated most others. White head and black and white checkering eliminate Lesser Black-backed and Herring.

Viewing conditions (light, distance, optics): Viewed at approximately 500 yard through binoculars and scope. Sunny day with good light on bird from behind me.

Previous experience: Observed many of this species, of all ages, two weeks previously on the East Coast.

References consulted during observation: none

References consulted before completing documentation: Harrison's Seabirds

Field notes made: On return home

Documentation completed: On return home