

Great Black-backed Gull
3 Dec 1986
Red Rock Res., Marion Co., IA
*P. Petersen
IBL 57:56, 78

Record Number: 86-32
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Peter C. Petersen

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 57:56
Records Committee: IBL 57:78

VOTE: 4-III, 2-IV, 1-abstain

IV, The description is fairly good but not detailed enough to be conclusive. The documentation of this 30 second sighting was apparently not written for five hours after observation. The size was compared only in flight to one Herring Gull and we cannot tell how much larger it was. The description of the wing and tail pattern sure sound like GBBG but why wasn't it just one of the many variations of Herring Gull?

III, Description sounds like bird previously seen at Saylorville. How can one use 2 sets of binoculars in 30 seconds. When the observers went to look for this specific bird, why did they wait 5 hours to make notes? Why didn't Sandvich also submit description?

III, Very good description of 1st yr. Great Black-backed Gull.

IV, Description of bill would have helped rule out a possible large, light, 1st. winter herring gull. Herring gulls can be quite variable.

III, Description convincing. Although not directly mentioned, details indicate saddleback effect, with dark tail band and primaries and pale head and rump. Probably a different bird from that seen by Dinsmore at Saylorville in November.

REVOTE (at meeting, 30 May 1987): 5-III, 1-IV, 1-abstain

86-32

Great Black-backed Gull - one

Seen From Hwy 14 bridge across Red Rock Res.
3 Dec. 1986 at 2:35 PM for about 30 seconds.

Large First year gull larger than First year Herring Gull
Flying with it. Dark ^{brown} wingtips & checkered back & remainder of mantle
except dark brown along trailing edge of wing from above. Tail
with dark brown terminal band about 1" wide. Rump & head very
light tan, bill very dark. What was seen of body was light tan.
Voice not heard. Bird flying with Ring-billed & Herring Gulls, most
adulthood and stood out. Seen flying over reservoir.
Herring gull eliminated by large size, small amount of dark brown
on tail, light head & rump. Also lacked light area on inner primaries
noted in the nearby Herring Gull.

Seen from about 100-120 meters with 10x40 & 7x35 binoculars
Sun directly behind observers & shining on bird. Also seen by
Gil Sandvick. Both observers had seen this species previously,
the documentor on many occasions. Gil agreed with the id.
A very similar bird seen 1 Dec. at Saylerville Res. by Steve Dinsmore
Prior to the observation both observers had consulted the
Geographic Guide, Master guide, Sea birds by Harrison &
Gulls by Grant, 2nd ed. To become familiar with points
to check. Doc. written five hours after observation.
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