

Lesser Black-backed Gull
22 Oct 1995
Lock 13, Clinton Co., IA
*Peter C. Petersen
IBL 66:21, 97

Record Number: 95-52
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport 52803
[6/7/96]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:21
Records Committee: IBL 66:97

VOTE: 6 A-D, 1 NA

NA, Most likely possibility, but at 1.5 miles?

A-D, All field marks fit Lesser Black-backed except yellow legs not seen, do we have any record in Iowa of a gull this size with a back dark enough to be anything other than a Lesser Black-backed, if there is precedence for an aberrant plumage dark backed Herring then I would change to NA on this record, otherwise this is beyond doubt because of field marks as described.

RE-VOTE: 4 A-D, 3 NA

NA, NA voter correct. I misread this documentation to mean the observer saw it at 500 yards. 1.5 miles is too extreme. It would have been helpful to have had documentations from the other observers.

NA, Most likely possibility, but at 1 to 1.5 miles I choose to change my vote to NA.

A-D, If this was really 1.5 miles away, what eyesight! Description leads me to believe that this might be over-estimation of distance.

NA, ID at 1.5 miles stretches the credibility of the Records Committee.

A-D, Distance large, but size comparison adequate for ID, along with other features described.

95-52

Tom if you need full doc address
Gull id notes - 10/22

Pet

Sabine's Gull. 10/22 - Loch 13 flying over channel near barges -
within 50m at closest - imm p plumage - much smaller than
Ring-bills. wing showed clear W marking - leading edge
triangle of primaries black, secondary coverts grey, rest of
wing white, bill black, tail notched, black edge. Head with
brownish grey smudge behind eye. 10X40 Zeiss binocs -
Mary Lou Petersen saw well, Dennis Carter saw fairly well. 10:00 AM.
For 2-3 min.

✓ Lesser Black-backed Gull - 10/22 Loch 13 - perched on
circular structure 1mi. from IA shore, 1.5mi. from IL shore with
Herring & Ring-bills. it was intermediate in size. Back & mantle
very dark grey, bill yellow, legs not visible as bird resting
on belly. Head white with brown streaks, breast & belly white.
White edge showing between primary tips (which were black)
& mantle not wide. Bird of same description seen 10/28 from
IL shore by Dan Dornau & Kelly McElroy. Viewed thru HOWA scope
at 40-60X, range about 500m. + Mary Lou Petersen & Dennis Carter
about 10:00 AM, seen for 15 minutes.

7/24/96

Dear Tom;

Ross had a note in the last I & L regarding the lack of a photo of Spotted Towhee taken in Iowa. Enclosed is a print from the Pine Hill banding project which should suffice.

Some comments re. 6/7 committee comments:
New-bird never banded - no chance to relocate as it flew off to the river; trees didn't allow me to tell if it went east or west.
Lesser Black-backed - Re. distance from in to bird. committee members must not know physical set-up at Lock 13 - you drive 1.5 mi along a levee to get to lock which is closer to Iowa shore than Ill. Then you go north on a raised roadway along the channel about $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. From this point (where we were) the circular structure with ~~no~~ navigational lights is 900 m. That is our distance from the bird. This structure is about 5 m. over the water, so heat waves are not a problem. The committee should visit the West. more frequently or at least once in the Clinton area. We wrote the documentation together as we had compromised any individual objectivity.

Sincerely,
Pete

95-52 ✓

95-52

Tom - if you need full doc address

Gull id notes - 10/22

Pet

Sabrae's Gull. 10/22 - Loch 13 flying over channel near barges - within 50m at closest - imm & plumage - much smaller than Ring-bills. wing showed clear W marking - leading edge triangle of primaries black, secondary coverts grey, rest of wing white, bill black, tail notched, black edge. Head with brownish grey smudge behind eye. 10X40 Zeiss binocs - Mary Lou Petersen saw well, Dennis Carter saw fairly well. 10:00 AM. For 2-3 min.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - 10/22 Loch 13 - perched on circular structure 1mi. from IA shore, 1.5mi from IL shore with Herring & Ring-bills. it was intermediate in size. Back & mantle very dark grey, bill yellow, legs not visible as bird resting on belly. Head white with brown streaks, breast & belly white. White edge showing between primary tips (which were black) & mantle not wide. Bird of same description seen 10/28 from IL shore by Dan Dornau & Kelly McElroy. Viewed thru HOWA scope at 40-60x, range about 500m. + Mary Lou Petersen & Dennis Carter about 10:00 AM, seen for 15 minutes.