

Thayer's Gull
3 Dec 1986
Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA
*P. Petersen
IBL 57:56, 78

Record Number: 86-23
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Peter C. Petersen

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 57:56

Records Committee: IBL 57:78

VOTE: 1-III, 5-IV, 1-abstain

IV, Probably correct, but not convincingly documented. The description is so brief, it is difficult to determine if bird was well observed.

IV, Pertinent field marks were "grey brown primaries slightly darker than rest of mantle and back above, primaries whitish below." That doesn't exclude Herring Gull for me.

IV, Not enough comparative information to similar species available on this documentation to make a complete decision on this bird. Not a full enough documentation to be sure of Thayer's Gull.

IV, While this is probably correct ID, the variations in color such as the "rump light grey" are suggestive of Herring Gull.

IV, I could believe at least on Thayer's (see 86-22). Description is fair, although Kumlein's not specifically eliminated--no tail band noted, although "light gray rump" was seen. Doc, of Thayer's is a problem.

III, terse.

Thayer's Gull - one

Cottonwood Rec. Area below Saylorsville Dam, Polk Co

3 Dec. 1986 - bird seen 10:02-10:03 AM.

First year gull, about Herring Gull size, grey brown primaries slightly darker than rest of mantle ^{back}, above, primaries whitish below. Bill dark, tail color of primaries when view from above, rump light ^{grey}. Top of head brownish; throat light. Bird call not distinguishable from Ring-billed Gulls feeding with it. It was feeding in Des Moines River + flew downstream after our observation. Herring Gull eliminated by lack of sharp contrast between primaries + remainder of mantle + back and whitish undersides of primaries. Bird about 30 yards from observers, 10x40 + 7x35 binoculars used. Sun behind observers during observation. Have seen this bird previously in California (both observers) - Gil Sandvick with this observer and he agreed with this identification. Seen earlier in week by Steve Dinsmore + others, later in morning by Beth + Mark Proescholdt who identified it independently of us. Had reviewed Geographic guide, Master guide, Seabirds by Harris + Gulls by Grant, 2nd ed, prior to this observation to have points of id in mind. Notes made at time, this report written about 9 hours later.

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