

Iceland Gull
31 Jan 1993
Lock and Dam 14, Scott Co., IA
*J. Fuller
first-winter; IBL 63:49, 64:69

Record Number: 93-03
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240 [11/27/93]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 63:49
Records Committee: IBL 64:69

VOTE: 4 A-D, 3 NA

NA, Quite likely an Iceland Gull but not enough description given here to eliminate Thayer's Gull. We're getting awfully casual about Iceland Gulls when we describe one as "exactly like the one at ..."

A-D, Recent sighting and documentation of first-winter Iceland described two weeks earlier make these brief comments sufficient.

NA, I need more details to exclude a pale Thayer's Gull.

A-D, The size and all dark bill exclude Glaucous. The all white (presumably including the primaries on the standing bird) indicate Iceland rather than Thayer's. Reference to another bird does not replace a good description.

NA, There is not enough of a description of the immature bird offered in the documentation to conclusively say that this is an immature Iceland Gull. Details need to be conclusive in this document for a proper, complete review.

REVOTE: 3 A-D, 4 NA

NA, I still believe Thayer's is not eliminated by this description.

NA, I disagree that brief comments referring to a bird seen two weeks earlier at a location 50 miles away are sufficient for this record to stand alone.

A-D, Although I lament the lack of detail and casual nature of the documentation, I think that the size, dark bill, and presumably white primaries are enough to exclude Glucous (bill, size) and Thayer's (white primaries). The documentor seems to be confused about Kumlien's Gull--all Iowa birds are of this race.

NA, Comments from A-D voters do not add anything I read in the documentation on this bird and I still do not see enough in the documentation to indicate that this a first year Iceland Gull. I still think the documentation needs to include a full description of the bird and not a phrase such as "exactly like the bird documented in Iowa City."

93-03
93-04

DOCUMENTATION OF UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTING

SPECIES: Iceland Gull (Adult and First-Winter)

LOCATION: Lock & Dam #14, Mississippi River, Scott County.

DATE & TIME: January 31, 1993 (9:55-10:35 AM).

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240.

BIRD #1 (ADULT-KUMLIEN'S): After walking to the area opposite the lock, I was watching the gulls flying below the dam. I noticed a quite light adult gull, that had no black area at the end of the wing, either on the upperwing, or underwing. The underwing was totally light, but the upperwing had what appeared to be dark webbing between the outer two or three primaries. This dark streak did not extend to either the tips of the feathers or to the base of the feathers. In addition, some of the outer primaries had dark spots very close to their tips. The general size of the bird was smaller than any of the numerous Herring Gulls in the area. The mantle and upper wing (except for the wing tip as described) were a light gray, lighter than an adult Herring Gull. The underwing was entirely light to the end of the primaries. The bill appeared to be light. I only saw the bird flying, and could not see the legs. I watched it fly at distances ranging from 25-200 yards for about five minutes.

93-04

BIRD #2 (FIRST-WINTER): This bird was standing on the backwater ice near the lock with a large group of Herring Gulls. It was exactly like the bird documented at Iowa City. It was smaller than any of the Herring Gulls, almost totally off white (grayish-brown flecking), dark bill, gray-pink legs. I did not see it fly.

93-03

SIMILAR SPECIES: Adult Kumlien's Gull is larger than Ring-billed, and smaller than Herring Gull, both of which have black areas at the end of both upper and underwing.

VIEWING CONDITIONS: It was a sunny morning. The first-winter bird was viewed toward the north with a KOW-TSN4 telescope at about 60-70 yards, while the Kumlien's was viewed toward the east and northeast, and the lighting was not always good. However, when it was close and I was looking toward the northeast, very good looks were obtained using Swift Audubon 8.5 X 44 binoculars.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I had never seen a Kumlien's Gull previously, but have seen five first-winter Iceland Gulls in the past two years.

93-03

93-04

FIELD NOTES and REFERENCES: Field notes were recorded when I returned to car, and this report was typed on February 4, 1993. No references were viewed until the evening of the sighting, when the National Geographic guide and Harrison's Seabirds were checked.