

Lesser Black-backed Gull
4 Feb 1987
Bettendorf, Scott Co., IA
*C Fuller, *P. Petersen
IBL 57:56, 58:74

Record Number: 87-05
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATIONS

Chuck Fuller, 4 Feb
Peter C. Petersen, 6 Feb

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 57:56
Records Committee: IBL 58:74

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

III, Both observers give good description of mantle color and seem to agree on yellow legs. One called head white, other noted the expected brown streaking.

III, I would judge to be Iowa side, if location same as Great Black-backed.

III, Description adequate to eliminate other species, right time and place for this species to show up in Iowa.

III, Descriptions seem to eliminate other possibilities.

II, Thru 2/14/87 at least. At least 2 birds present--seen several times at Sunset Park Rock Island, Il. off Miss. 2-14 to 16, by PCP, Doug Reeves, Laura Jackson, Bill Bertrand and others.

IV, Fuller does not consider California, even though legs described as "yellow." Mantle intermed. between Herring and GrBlbacked, which would fit California. Light not very good for Petersen observation.

REVOTE (at meeting, 30 May 1987): 7-III

What species? LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL How many? 1Location? SEEN FROM RIVERSIDE PARK MOLINE (ATTENDING FA.)Type of habitat? RIVERWhen? date(s): 2/4 time: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PMWho? your name and address: CHUCK FULLER 420 S. GARFIELD BURLINGTON
IOWAothers with you: JANE FULLERothers before or after you: NONE THAT I KNOW OF

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I WAS SCOPING A NUMBER OF GULLS ALONG BAR IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER LOOKING SPECIFICALLY FOR A GREATER BLACK BACKED GULL (SEEN HERE PREVIOUSLY) OR A GLAUCOUS GULL.

I CAME UPON A GULL WHOSE MANTLE WAS MARKEDLY DARKER THAN A HERRING GULL RIGHT NEXT TO IT (MANY HERRING GULLS LINED UP WITH 4-5 IN SCOPE AT ONCE) THIS MANTLE WAS NOT COAL BLACK AS GREATER BLACK BACKED BUT AN INTERMEDIATE BETWEEN GRAY OF HERRING AND COAL OF GREATER BLACK BACKED - SIZE WAS SIMILAR TO HERRING OR SLIGHTLY SMALLER - LEGS WERE YELLOW, HEAD WHITE I TRIED TO DISCERN BILL MARKING - DEFINITELY HAD A MARKING - COLOR & BIRD DID NOT FLY

I MOVED DOWNSTREAM TO CHECK OTHER GULLS (STILL IN RIVERSIDE PARK) AND LOOKED BACK AND STILL COULD PICK THIS GULL OUT. I WAS 600 YDS AWAY BY THEN.
CONCLUSION. ADULT LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL

Similar species and how eliminated:

WESTERN - SLATY BACKED - YELLOW LEGS

GREATER BLACK BACKED - SIZE - LEG COLOR. DIFFERENCE IN MANTLE COLOR

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO - EXCEPT EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIES

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

GOOD TO EXCELLENT 200 YDS 25X CELESTRON SCOPEPrevious experience with species and similar ones: SEEN KEOKUK DAM 198610/22/86

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? NOTES this form completed? 2 DAYS.
IMMEDIATELY

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Lesser Black-backed Gull 2. Number of birds: 1
3. Location old seawall just S. of Mississippi channel County: Rock Island + Scott
~~be between the two + Be Henderson~~
4. Date: 6 Feb. 1987 5. Time bird seen: 5:05 PM to 5:20 PM.
14 Feb. 1987 4:45 PM - Pe Pouch - 2
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
 adult plumaged gull slightly smaller than nearby Herring Gulls.
 Head, breast + belly white with some tan flecking on head + neck.
 Mantle dark grey much darker than Herring's standing with this
 bird. Wing tips black with white tips, bill yellow, darkish at tip, probably
 red but light was fading. Legs looked yellow. White area between mantle
 + wing tips + one white area on lower back.
 x/14 bird - bill looked dark except orange along top at tip - probably a different bird.
7. Description of voice, if heard: silent
8. Description of behavior: standing on seawall
9. Habitat - general: Mississippi River
 specific: seawall in middle of river
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Great Black-backed Gull - back not black, legs not pink, too small
Slate-backed Gull - legs not reddish-pink.
11. Distance (how measured)? 500 yards, est. 12. Optical equipment: 35X Scope
10X40 binocs.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Sun setting - from left + behind observers
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Have seen on several occasions previously in Indiana, Iowa + Europe -
15. Other observers: Mary Lou Petersen, Ann Barker
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Jane Fuller, Genny White, Tim Dayer
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
checked Geo + Robbins guide to eliminate other possibilities but they did not influence our description
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 hour
- Signature Peter C. Petersen Address: 235 McClellan Blvd
- Date: 6 Feb. 1987 City, State: Davenport, IA, 52803