

Black-legged Kittiwake
20 Dec 1986
Rathbun Res., Appanoose Co., IA
*S. Dinsmore
IBL 57:46, 56, 78

Record Number: 86-34
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Steve Dinsmore

REFERENCES

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 57:46
Field Reports: IBL 57:56
Records Committee: IBL 57:78

VOTE: 7-III

III, Excellent description and very convincingly documented.

III, key marks noted.

III, Very good documentation of Black-legged Kittiwake except wing should not have been mostly white though. Description eliminates any other possibility.

III, Good description but a drawing of wing pattern would have been helpful.

III, Can't find anything wrong with this description.

6-34

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

86-34

by the Records Committee
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: *Black-legged Kittiwake*

DATE SEEN: *12-20-86*

SITE OF OBSERVATION: *Rathbun Res.*

OBSERVERS: *S. Dinsmore*

DATE OF REVIEW: *5-30-87*

METHOD OF REVIEW: *Vote*

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: *III*

COMMENTS:

Excellent description and very convincingly documented.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Black-legged Kittiwake

How Many?1 imm.

Location?Rathbun Reservoir, Appanoose Co.-above dam

Habitat?feeding with Ring-billed Gulls near open water and resting on the ice

Date?20 Dec 1986

Time?4:06-4:22 P.M.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:2 other local birders, but I didn't catch their names

Description of bird:The bird was roughly the size of nearby Ring-billed Gulls. The most conspicuous feature of the bird was its bold wing pattern. The wing was mostly white with the outer primaries and a bar running the length of the inner wing being black. The mantle was light gray. The tail was also white with a black terminal band. The tail was slightly notched. The nape was white except for a dark smudge across the back of the neck, just above the wings. When the bird was perched, the legs and bill both looked dark. The bill was much shorter and slimmer than the bill of a Ring-billed Gull. The head was white with a dark spot about an inch behind the eye. The eye also looked dark. The underparts were pure white with no obvious markings of any sort. While perched, the wingtips extended well beyond the tail, not just a little behind the tail as in a Ring-billed Gull.

Similar species and how eliminated:The wing pattern, dark bill and legs, tail pattern, and size eliminates all other gulls.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were very good with the sky slightly overcast. Estimated viewing distance was 60-80 yards most of the time(I was looking down on the bird from on the dam). I used Nikon 8 x 23 binoculars and a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I had never seen a Black-legged Kittiwake before this sighting.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?on spot

How long before this form was completed?14 hours