

Thayer's Gull  
24 Dec 1986  
Lock 15, Scott Co., IA  
\*P. Petersen  
also 25 Dec; IBL 57:56, 78

Record Number: 86-29  
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Peter C. Petersen

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 57:56

Records Committee: IBL 57:78

VOTE: 5-IV, 1-abstain, 1-no vote

IV, Probably correct, but not convincingly documented. There is so little detail in this documentation written up one hour and two hours after five minute and two minute observations. The only suggestive feature mentioned was "medium grey wingtips."

IV, Identification based on wing tip which is described as "medium grey, darkest appearing to trailing edge of wing." I need more than this. Eye is described as "dark eye not observed" and below as "its dark eye."

IV, Very scanty description, hard to read and follow observers thoughts and what he wanted to get across to reader of documentation. Not enough information to make a conclusive decision on Thayer's Gull. A better description could change my decision however (a more indepth study is required).

IV, Not convincingly separated from Kumlein's Iceland Gull. abstain, Also seen by T. Dwyer and G. White of Muscatine.

IV, Either a Thayer's or Kumlein's. In my opinion, latter not convincingly eliminated. "Wingtips not black" raises doubt about Thayer's. Not a very detailed sighting.

no vote, 100 ft away and more. Eye color visible? 10x binocs. Only other mark = "wing tips = medium gray darkest appearing to trailing edge of wing." Terse.

Secundering ct. Period  
save For winter report also

ILLINOIS

86-29 (DAV ct. period)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Thayer's Gull - adult 2. Number of birds: 1

3. Location Lock 15, Davenport County: Scott

4. Date: 24 Dec. 1986 5. Time bird seen: 10:10 to 10:15 AM  
25 Dec. 1986 2:40 2:42 PM

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):

Herring-sized gull, mantle light grey, wing tips medium grey, darkest appearing to trailing edge of wing. Body white, <sup>tail</sup> bell yellow, legs medium pink, eye dark. On second sighting bird 150-200 yards away & dark eye not observed.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not distinguished from nearby Herring

8. Description of behavior: flying in front of 2 rollers closest to Iowa shore

9. Habitat - general: Mississippi River  
specific: just below roller dam

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
Herring Gull - wing tips not black on this bird, + its eye was dark.  
Iceland (Kumeli's) - wing tips not as pale grey, legs not pale pink.

11. Distance (how measured)? 100-200' (est.) 12. Optical equipment: 10X40 binocs

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Fairly bright oc.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Have seen many in arctic Canada + at Alton in adult plumage

15. Other observers: none

16. Did the others agree with your identification? -

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Tim Duxer, Jerry White

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Checked Geographic guide

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? one hour + two hours - 25 Dec.

Signature: Peter C. Peterson Address: 235 McClellan Blvd.

Date: 24 Dec. 1986 City, State: Davenport, IA 52803