

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/20/00

Black-legged Kittiwake
18 Dec 1995
Montrose, Lee Co., IA
*Stephen J. Dinsmore
IBL 66:57, 96

Record Number: 95-71
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames 50014 [6/7/96]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:57
Records Committee: IBL 66:96

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Diagnostic features seen.

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake

Number: 1 first-basic

Location: Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Lee Co.

Habitat: below large dam on river

Date: 18 December 1995

Time: approx. 7:50-8:45 a.m. and 4:10-4:30 p.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird(s): I was looking through about 1,000 Ring-billed Gulls feeding below the lock when I noticed a slightly smaller gull with a bold black "W" pattern on the upperwings. The bird was slightly smaller and slimmer-winged than a Ring-billed Gull and flew with more rapid wingbeats. The bill was short, black, and straight. The head was white except for a small black spot behind the eye and a distinct, black half-collar across the nape. The underparts were white. The legs were black. The tail was white, slightly forked, and had a narrow black terminal band. The mantle was pale gray. The upperwing pattern was striking: outer primaries black, inner primaries white, secondaries mostly pale gray with a black bar angling posteriorly from the bend in the wing. The underwings appeared pale. The bird was seen only in flight. The head, tail, and wing patterns indicate the bird was in first-basic plumage.

Similar species and how eliminated: The combination of size, bill color, and wing and tail patterns is diagnostic of a first-basic Black-legged Kittiwake.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were good with overcast skies. Estimated viewing distance was 50-200m. I used 10x42 binoculars and a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: Very familiar with kittiwakes from pelagic work off Massachusetts and North Carolina. I have also seen numerous first-basic birds in Iowa.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none made

How long before this form completed: