

Great Black-backed Gull

3 Apr 1980

George Wyth State Park, Black Hawk Co., IA

\*Tom Stone Jr.

IBL 52:42

Record Number: 80-11

Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Tom Stone Jr.

REFERENCE

Records Committee: IBL 52:42

VOTE: 5 VI, 2 out

(This record was rejected at the first meeting of the Records Committee in Sep 1980)

VI, previously evaluated.

VI, Likely a 2nd winter Herring Gull.

VI, concur with Records Committee comments.

VI, prob. incorrect identification.

1. Species Greater Black-backed gull #2. number 1
3. Location ~~at the point~~ at George Wirth S.P.
4. Date April 3, 1980
5. time bird seen about 5:00 pm to 5:15 pm
6. Description: - 1st winter plumage - The bird was very large about 5 ~~under~~ inches longer than the Herring gull which it was with. And much heavier built than the Herring gulls. The size of the beak was heavily built and triangular shaped. <sup>the</sup> bills of the Herring gulls were much smaller, compared to this bird. The beak of this bird was totally black. The body was brownish except for the head which was almost white ~~is~~ except for a few brown specks. The head was quite contrastable from the rest of the body. It had a triangular shaped ~~white~~ rump patch with some brown specks on it and had a black bar at the end of the tail with a white trailing edge.
7. description of behavior - was flying with approximately 100 adult Herring gulls.
8. Habitat - wooded area and open lakes, river. Specific - George Wirth lake about 10 acres, nearby ponds and lakes, and the Cedar River. record
9. Similarly appearing species - ~~is~~ ~~is~~ year Herring gull. is alot smaller and has a two-tone coloring of the beak. And beak is not as heavily built.

10. distance - came as close as "about 40-50 yards"
11. Optical - 7-50 binoculars
12. lighting - overcast
13. Previous Experience with Species - ~~P~~ This is the first time I have seen this bird.
14. Other ~~observers~~ observers - none
15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Books, illustrations and advice consulted. Birds of North America by Robbins, Bruun and Singer has best illustration of 1st year plumaged G. Black-backed Gull. Francis Moore - a ~~member~~ member of Waterloo Audubon and I.C.U. and a very good experienced birdwatcher has seen species on several occasions ~~is~~ when he lived in Virginia and told me that the ~~easy~~ easiest thing to notice is the heavy built beak. The beak of the bird I saw was easily noticeable even at a far away distance.
19. I looked up the description in the field guide, and wrote a description of the bird I saw in my notebook as soon as I got home.

Tom Stone Jr. 1632 Woodmayr Dr.  
 Waterloo, Ia  
 June 3, 1980

Great Black-backed Gull 3 Apr 1980 George Wyth SP T. Stone Jr. 2/5  
 other gulls used for reference had to be Ring-bills because 100 mature Herring Gull at this time and location not plausible, lacks independent confirmation, brown body (and by implication underparts) and white head and dark bill suggest moulting 1st spring Herring Gull, size hard to judge on flying bird, lack of observer experience with this species, date unlikely, not convincing