

Lesser Black-backed Gull  
11 Dec 1986  
Red Rock Res., Marion Co., IA  
\*Jim Fuller  
IBL 57:56, 78

Record Number: 86-31  
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Jim Fuller

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 57:56

Records Committee: 57:78

VOTE: 3-III, 4-IV

IV, At first, I didn't know what to make of this bird. The description is a little vague and the distance and light made viewing less than ideal. It sounds like this may have been a 3rd winter LBBG. This would explain the brown in the wing and the darker tip to the bill. However, any age of LBBG in winter should have extensive brown streaking on the head. This bird was described with a white head. I just don't feel the description is quite conclusive.

III, Not as well seen as 86-30, probably same bird.

III, Other species adequately eliminated by documentation though it could have been much better done.

IV, This must have been a different bird that [sic] 12/5/86 sighting as no mention was made of brown flecking on head. Leg color should be noted to help rule out other dark-backed gulls.

III, Combine with 12/3 obs.-same exact location.

IV, Rather brief description. I am concerned about the possibility of California Gull. Description of wing and mantle coloration suggestive of California--did not appear to be very dark. Also, leg color was thought to be "light." However, 86-30 indicative that Lesser was indeed present at about same time.

IV, Head pure white? Not supposed to be true of LBB in winter.

16-31

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

86-31

by the Records Committee

of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: *Lesser Black-backed Gull*

DATE SEEN: *12-11-86*

SITE OF OBSERVATION: *Red Rock Res.*

OBSERVERS: *Jim Fuller*

DATE OF REVIEW: *5-30-87*

METHOD OF REVIEW: *Vote*

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: *IV*

COMMENTS:

*While this may well be a correct ID, the committee, on a very close vote, decided that the description was not convincing enough to be accepted as a Class III sighting.*

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.

What species? LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL How many? 1Location? ON ICE IN LAKE RED ROCK AS VIEWED FROM BLUFF IN N. ELK ROCK ST. IAType of habitat? RESERVOIR ON ICEWhen? date(s): 12/11/86 time: 2:40 to 3:15 PMWho? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LOUVIEW, RR#6, IOWA CITY

others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

THIS BIRD WAS WITH A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 40-50 GULLS. THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF OTHER GULLS FLYING + STANDING ON THE ICE IN THE SAME AREA. IT WAS ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE HERRING GULLS + LARGER THAN THE RING-BILLED GULLS IN THE IMMEDIATE GROUP. IT WAS VIEWED AT 200-250 YDS, AND WAS SEEN STANDING ON ICE, EXCEPT WHEN IT SPREAD WINGS ONCE, BRIEFLY, IT STOOD OUT FROM THE HERRING AND RING-BILLED BECAUSE OF ITS MUCH DARKER WINGS. THE WING COLOR WAS NOT ENTIRELY GRAY-BLACK, BUT HAD A BROWNISH TINGE. THE MANTLE COLOR WAS GRAY, BUT A MUCH DARKER GRAY THAN THE WINGS + MANTLES OF SURROUNDING HERRING + RING BILLED. THE HEAD WAS WHITE. THE DISTANCE MADE IT DIFFICULT TO SEE LEG COLOR, EXCEPT THAT IT APPEARED LIGHT. BILL APPEARED TO HAVE A DARKER TIP THAN BASAL PORTION. AS I WAS SCOPING OTHER BIRDS, THIS BIRD LEFT UNNOTICED AND WAS NEVER SEEN FLYING.

Similar species and how eliminated: GREAT BLACK BACKED - SIZE  
OTHER DARK IMMATURE GULLS - WINGS - MORE SOLID + CONSISTENT  
COLOR + MANTLE SOLID DARK GRAY

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
200-250 YARDS. SUN IN AND OUT. VIEWED TOWARD SOUTH-  
EAST WITH SUN IN SOUTHWEST. VIEWED FROM ABOVE TO SOME  
EXTENT (ON BLUFF ALONG N. SHORE)

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

NONE WITH IMMATURE BIRDS OF THIS SPECIES

References and persons consulted before writing description:

HARRISON + AUDUBON MASTER GUIDESHow long before field notes made? IMMEDIATE this form completed? 5 HOURS

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