

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Lesser Black-backed Gull

Number: 1 basic adult

Location: Windsor Reservoir, Weld Co., Colorado

Habitat: large lake

Date: 10 February 1999

Time: 4:25-4:57 p.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 1/2 West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird(s): none

ACCEPT 7-0

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Description of bird(s): When I arrived at the north end of Windsor Reservoir, I found a large number of gulls, apparently seeking shelter from strong northwest winds. As I was scanning the flock, I noticed a medium-sized, dark-mantled gull feeding with several Herring Gulls. I alternately observed the bird in flight and resting (on the water and on shore). The bird was slightly smaller and slimmer than a Herring Gull, but noticeably larger than a Ring-billed Gull. The bill was yellow with a small red spot near the tip of the lower mandible. The legs were bright yellow. The head, neck, underparts, and tail were white except for some brown streaking on the nape and a brown smudge around the eye. The mantle was very dark gray, much darker than the mantle color of a Herring Gull, but definitely not black. In flight, I noted that the upperwings were dark gray (same color as the mantle) except for black color in the outer primaries. Specifically, the outer 3-4 primaries appeared solidly black and there was some black near the tips of the next 2-3 primaries. There was also a large white subterminal mirror on the outermost primary. On the basis of the plumage, I concluded the bird was an adult in basic plumage.

Similar species and how eliminated: The combination of size, mantle color, primary pattern, and leg color eliminates other gulls, especially California and Slaty-backed.

Previous experience with species: I have seen numerous Lesser Black-backed Gull, including >100 in North Carolina plus several each in Iowa and Nebraska.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were very good with overcast skies. Estimated viewing distance was 300-500m. I used a 20-60x spotting scope.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? written 12 February 1999