

Bill Tweit  
Rarity Description

2001-3

ACCEPTED

Lesser Black-backed Gull  
7 March 2000  
Boulder Reservoir, Boulder Co., CO

(Bill Tweit)

Although the reservoir was iced up, I found a small group of roosting gulls on the west end of the adjacent water to the south. As I scoped them, a larger, dark-mantled gull clearly stood out from the others. I took the following notes as I watched it through the scope, at about a quarter mile distance. Light was good, an afternoon angle under high overcast. The relatively small amount of wind did not affect viewing conditions. I used a Swarovski 80, generally at 30x. The bird remained near the front of the gull flock, so that my view of it was never restricted. For the ten minutes I watched, it walked, stood and preened a bit.

With Ring-billed Gulls, a larger, dark-mantled gull. Head and underparts were white, with a few faint brownish flecks on the cheeks and nape. Mantle color was a deep grayish-black. Legs were fairly bright yellow. Beak was yellow, with a red spot at the gonys. Iris appeared light. Beak appeared almost as slender as that of a California Gull (not present for comparison). Did not see the spread wing, but could see a white mirror on the undersurface of the outer primary of the folded wing.