

THAYER'S GULL 348-0191992
(Larus thayeri)

Observers: Jerry McWilliams, Ed Kwater

Date: March 14, 1992

Time: I discovered the bird at approx. 11:00 AM while leading
a Presque Isle Audubon Society field trip.

Location: Misery Bay on Presque Isle State Park

Viewing distance: approx. 150 yards

Optics: 25X Bushnell Spotting Scope and 10 X 40 Zeiss Dialyt
Binocular.

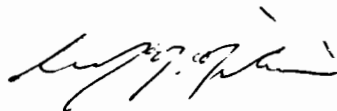
Description when sitting on the water: The gull was in basic definitive plumage. The birds size was nearly identical to Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) and noticeably larger than Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*) with which it was associating with. Bill nearly the same size as Herring, but larger than Ring-billed Gull. Head rounder than Herring not flat-topped, but not pointed at the top like Iceland (*L. glaucoides*). Iris dark. Head, neck, and upper breast heavily streaked with warm brown. Mantle very slightly darker grey than Ring-billed and Herring Gull. Primary extensions very dark grey or blackish not as dark as Herring or Ring-billed, but definitely not frosty like *L. glaucoides kumlieni* with slightly larger white apical spots than Herring.

Description when in flight: The most obvious characteristic was the absence of black on the undersides of the outer primaries and the reduced amount of black on the uppersides of the outer primaries. The dark sub-apical spot on the 6th primary could not be seen which is extremely difficult to see on a bird in flight and is best seen when the bird is standing with its wings stretched.

Closing comments: The white undersides of the outer primaries and dark iris eliminates Herring Gull and the dark grey mantle and blackish or dark grey outer primaries rather than frosty primaries rule out Iceland Gull. I have seen 4 definitive plumaged birds, 3 of which have been on Presque Isle. It was very helpful having both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls in definitive plumage associating with it for direct comparison. The bird was in view for about 5 minutes before it flew into Presque Isle Bay.

I saw another Thayer's Gull behind the Administration Building at 8:30 AM the next day on March 15, 1992. The bird was identical to the bird seen on March 14 except that it was in alternate definitive plumage, lacking head, neck, and upper breast streaking.

Jerry McWilliams



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Thayer's Gull**

Date of Sighting: **14 March 1992**

Observer(s): **Jerry McWilliams, Ed Kwater**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Jerry McWilliams, Ed Kwater**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date:

7/2/93