

348-03-1994

THAYER'S GULL

Larus thayeri

Location: Presque Isle Bay from the Erie side

Date: December 30, 1994

Time: Approximately 11:00 AM

Weather: Cloudy, light wind, viewing conditions good.

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Kowa TSN 4 at variable power

Viewing distance: 400 to 500 yards

Details of sighting and description: I was scanning through about 300 gulls, most of which were flying, when I spotted a gull showing grayish ventral primary tips. When it banked showing the dorsal surface I could see blackish primary tips with the black being more reduced than the nearby Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*). The gray across the dorsal surfaces appeared to be equal in tone to the gray dorsal surfaces of Herring Gull. This characteristic eliminated the very similar Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides kumlieni*) which is always a paler gray across the dorsal surfaces than the latter species. The nape and head was heavily streaked a rusty brown. My initial observation of the gull was when it was perhaps a quarter of a mile away. Despite this distance, I suspected that it was a Thayer's Gull in basic definitive plumage. As the bird approached, I was able to obtain additional field characteristics to add validity to the sighting. When I was within 500 yards, the details became clearer. The ventral surface of the primary tips were grayish with a large white mirror showing through near the tips of the outermost primaries. The only black seen was at the very tips of the outermost primaries and along the outer web of the outermost primary. On the dorsal surface of the primaries, black was limited to the outer webs of the outer five primaries with the very tips being white. There were two large mirrors about 2/3 way up on the outer two primaries.

Jerry McWilliams

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri)**

Date of Sighting: **30 December 1994 to 30 December 1994**

Location: **PRESQUE ISLE BAY FROM ERIE**

County: **ERIE**

Observer(s): **Jerry McWilliams**

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **Jerry McWilliams**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary): *J. C. Keen*

Date: *9-19-95*