

348-01-1995

THAYER'S GULL

Larus thayeri

Location: Presque Isle Bay from the Erie side

Date: February 2, 1995

Time: Approximately 10:00 AM

Weather: Mostly cloudy, light wind, viewing conditions good.

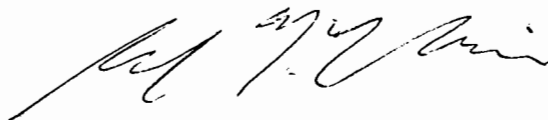
Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Kowa TSN 4 at variable power

Viewing distance: 250 to 500 yards

Details of sighting and description: I was scanning through about 100 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. As the bird approached, I was able to obtain additional field characteristics to add validity to the sighting. When I was within about 300 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 visible 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.

I saw what was probably the same bird again flying over the bay on 4 February from Presque Isle State Park.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri)

Date of Sighting: 2 February 1995 to 4 February 1995

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 | | | X | | | | | |
| DECISION | | | X | | | | | |

Comments:

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

Date: 9-19-95