

348-02-1995

## THAYER'S GULL

*Larus thayeri*

Location: Presque Isle Bay from the Erie side

Date: March 10, 1995

Time: Approximately 11:00 AM

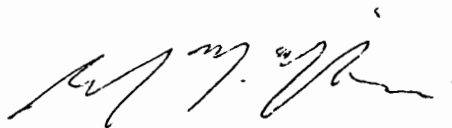
Weather: Variably cloudy, viewing conditions good.

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 1200 gulls that were flying over Presque Isle Bay 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. glaucooides kumlieni*) which is always a paler gray across the dorsal surfaces than the latter species. The nape and head were unmarked white indicating that it was in alternate plumage. 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.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: **10 March 1995 to 10 March 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			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Keen*

Date:

9-19-95