

348-04-1995

## THAYER'S GULL

*Larus thayeri*

Location: Presque Isle Bay from Presque Isle State Park

Date: April 9, 1995

Time: Approximately 10:30 AM

Weather: Cloudy, viewing conditions good, moderate rain showers

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Kowa TSN 4 at variable power and Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular

Viewing distance: About 200 yards away

Details of sighting and description: There was a large concentration of about 10,000 gulls feeding at the head of the bay. Most of the gulls were adult Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*), but there were also about 1,000 Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) in all plumages. While scanning through the gulls I found three Iceland Gulls (*L. glaucoides*) and one Lesser-black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*). I also spotted a first spring bird nearly identical in size and shape to a first spring Herring Gull, but was paler overall. The pale bird appeared to be in fairly fresh plumage which eliminated a washed out first spring Herring Gull. I had found at least two heavily worn and very pale Herring Gulls prior to finding this bird. In flight the outer five or six primaries and most of the secondaries were a slightly darker brown than the rest of the dorsal side of the bird. The inner primaries were pale giving the flight feathers a dark-light-dark pattern which *L. glaucoides kumlieni* does not show. The tail was marked with a broad brown band on the outer 2/3 equal to the darkness of the outer primaries and secondaries with a narrow pale fringe at the tip. There was dark brown barring on the under and uppertail coverts and at the base of the tail that was quite heavy. The remainder of the bird was pale brown, a little lighter on the underside. It landed a few times next to Herring Gulls of the same age. The slightly smaller and rounder head, slightly thinner bill, which was all black except the very base which was slightly pinkish in color, and pale brown primaries separated it from the Herring Gulls. I watched the Thayer's Gull for about 15 minutes before turning my attention away from it.



**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**

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

Date of Sighting: **9 April 1995 to 9 April 1995**

Location: **PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK**

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					
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>6</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>DECISION</b>			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Haas*

Date:

*5-1-96*