

348-02-2000

THAYER'S GULL

Larus thayeri

Location: Presque Isle Bay, Erie County, PA

Date: March 30, 2000

Time: 4:35 PM to 4:45 PM

Weather: Viewing conditions good.

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

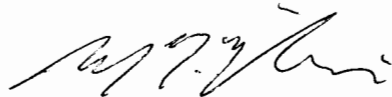
Optics: Kowa TSN 4 at 30X

Viewing distance: About 300 yards

Details of sighting and description:

I was searching through a mixed flock of about 500 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) and Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) that were flying around the tip of Leo's landing when I spotted a Thayer's Gull in alternate definitive plumage. It was similar to an adult Herring Gull showing light grayish rather than black ventral outer primaries. When it banked showing the dorsal surface I could see blackish outer primaries with the black being more reduced than any of the numerous Herring Gulls I had observed. The gray across the mantle and forewings of this bird appeared to be equal in tone to the gray across the mantle and forewings of Herring Gulls. This characteristic eliminated the very similar Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides kumlieni*) which is always a paler gray across the mantle and forewings than Herring Gull. The nape and head was completely unmarked white. As I studied the gull, I was able to obtain additional field characteristics. The ventral surface of the primary tips were grayish with a large white mirror showing through near the tips of the outer two most primaries. The only black visible was near the very tips (the tips of the primaries were white) of the outermost primaries forming a thin dark submarginal line 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 primaries (appearing as black fingers) except where the black narrowly crossed over the inner web bordering the white primary tips. There were two large mirrors about 2/3 way up on the outer two primaries.

I am familiar with Thayer's Gull, since I have seen many along the Niagara River in Canada and many in Presque Isle Bay.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri)

Date of Sighting: 30 March 2000 to 30 March 2000

Location: ERIE

County: PRESQUE ISLE BAY

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes


Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
B. Reid				X				
P. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 5/6/01