

Common Name: Lesser Black-backed Gull

Scientific Name: *Larus Fuscus*

Date: 9-28-96

Time: 1130

Length of time observed: 30 min.

Number: one

Age: adult

Sex: ♀

Location: one mile west of ^{I-15} exit 366 on Forest Road

Latilong:

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 50 yards

Light conditions: sunny

Optical equipment: Questar

Weather: clear

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Dark backed gull perched among many Ring-billed + a few California gulls. Size of Cal. Bill yellow w red spot on lower mandible (similar to Cal.). White head, neck, underside + tail. Pale eye. Yellow legs + feet. Dark grey mantle + upper wing - much darker than Cal. but lighter than black primaries. Primaries have white tips. Long Wings extend well beyond tail. Dark grey mantle + upper wing uniform in color.

Field Notes

9-28-96
 W. Nic
 many
 Gull - larger than Ring-b, size of Cal. (adult).
 Yellow legs, pale eye, bill like Cal w red spot on lower mand. dark back, but lighter than primaries, white spot on primary tips
 legs much darker than Cal. head not black.
 Long wings - much longer than tail - tail white
 ~ 50 yds w Questar

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: none

Behavior: loafing w Ring-billed & California gulls.

Habitat: ^{newly} plowed field - field was being plowed at the time; an hour later no plowing & no birds.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

California - yellow legs + feet, dark back (direct comparison)

Yellow-footed - too small by comparison w Cal. + Ring-bills; bill not so massive (observed Y-F recently at Salton Sea) + back not as dark (?)

Western - too small, yellow legs, lighter back.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Have seen east, west + gulf coast gulls. Lesser + Great Bl-backed on gulf coast, Yellow-footed at Salton Sea, Western on coast.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

National Mag. at the time. Added observation of wings longer than tail after consulting N.G. Checked Harrison + Grant later.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Field Notes

Description from notes taken at time of sighting X notes made later from memory

Observer: Stan Heath

Signature: Stanley A Heath

Address: 3489 E 9055 S
Sandy, UT 84043
801-943-5707

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Nic Nichol

Date prepared: 9-30-96

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120