

aged bird on the Mississippi River here on 28 February which even had a pink cast to its belly.

- Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, Iowa 53803.

### Mew Gulls Observed at Lakefront

During the winter of 1991/92, I was fortunate enough to see Mew Gulls (*Larus canus*) four different times along the Chicago lakefront. The first was seen on 15 December 1991 at the north end of Diversey Harbor. The second and third sightings were on 15 January 1992 at Montrose and Diversey harbors. I saw the fourth Mew Gull on 20 February 1992 at Burnham Harbor.

All of these birds were adults in basic plumage and all were associating with Ring-billed Gulls. Unfortunately, no one else saw any of these birds, but I did manage to photograph the second and fourth individuals.

Mew Gulls, especially adults in basic (winter) plumage are readily identifiable, being obviously darker mantled than any Ring-billed Gull. Additionally, the head and neck are heavily mottled and streaked, giving these birds a hooded appearance.

- Robert Hughes, 696 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60613.

*Editor's Note: These sightings represent Illinois' fifth through eighth records of this species.*

### California Gull Visits Chicago

On 2 December 1991, I found an adult California Gull (*Larus californicus*) at O'Brien Lock and Dam in southeastern Chicago. The bird was standing in a grassy area with a mixed flock of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, adjacent to a garbage dump. The gull was seen again the following day in the same area by Eric Walters, Walter Marcisz, and Sue Friscia.

About halfway in size between Ring-billed and Herring Gull, this individual had a gray mantle several shades darker than either of the aforementioned species. The bird showed dull yellow legs, dark eyes, and a fairly long bill with the

telltale black and red spot on the gonys.

- Robert Hughes, 696 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60613.

*Editor's Note: This sighting represents the first verified winter record for northern Illinois and only the second winter record for the state. Interestingly, another adult California Gull was discovered during this period in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the first confirmed record for the state.*

### Lesser Black-backed Gull Winters in Moline

On 2 February 1992, I saw an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) along the Illinois side of the Mississippi River channel from Butterworth Parkway in Moline. I observed the bird for five minutes with Ann Johnson of Norwalk, Iowa. Later that day, Gerald White of Muscatine, Iowa also saw the bird.

With full sunlight behind us, we used a scope at 35 x 60 to observe the bird standing on an ice flow about 400 meters away. The bird associated with many larger Herring Gulls and an adult Great Black-backed Gull. The mantle was not as dark as the Great Black-backed Gulls, and the legs were yellow.

A second year bird was seen at Davenport 5 January 1992 by Jim Fuller of Iowa City. I had seen an adult 11 January 1992, which was later seen 8 February by others.

We also saw two Great Black-backed Gulls from 8 January to 13 February and three or four Iceland Gulls from 31 December to 21 February. Many observers sighted Thayer's and Glaucous Gulls all winter long in the Quad-City area.

During mild winters, with only partial ice cover, this area is rich with gulls.

- Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, Iowa 52803.

### Slaty-backed Gull Seen Near Rock Island Arsenal

At mid-morning on 6 February 1992, I saw about 100 gulls on an ice shelf at the Lindsay Park Boat Club near my home in east Davenport,