

accept a single-observer report that lacked the crucial field mark for identification.

OTHER UNACCEPTED RECORDS

— (1 record of 1 species)

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus vegae*) One probably 4th year at Winthrop Harbor on 26 Nov to 5 December (2001.057). This bird was seen by many observers and generated much controversy. The only photographs obtained were of the bird perched at a significant distance. Despite the number of observers, only three observers documented their sightings to IORC. Despite some very detailed written documentation, in the end, the committee could not currently accept an identification of this gull to subspecies. In part this reflects a lack of knowledge of the identification criteria for some of these subspecies. It also reflects the sense of the committee that, given the lack of confirmed records of this subspecies for the lower forty-eight states, the photographic evidence needed to be diagnostic for acceptance.

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