

## Black-headed Gull at Montrose, Cook County:



28 February 2007

Photos by Greg Neise.

28 February 2007



3 March 2007

Photo by  
Carolyn  
Fields.



first  
documented  
record in Illinois  
in nearly  
20 years

By Sheryl DeVore

One of the most photogenic rare birds in Illinois the winter of 2007 was the seemingly omnipresent adult Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) in basic plumage at Montrose Harbor, Cook County. Listed as casual in the state by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC), this species has

not been documented in Illinois for nearly 20 years. (See *Meadowlark* Vol 16:59 for the 2007 acceptance in the annual IORC report). The last documented Illinois report I could find of Black-headed Gull, then called Common Black-headed Gull, was 10-22 September 1988 in Alton, Illinois, seen by many observers and

another 14-18 October 1988 at Clinton Lake seen by many observers. (see *Illinois Birds and Birding* 5:46). A Common Black-headed Gull was also reported 4-16 December 1985 and 4 January 1985 at Horseshoe Lake Recreation Area in Madison County (see *Illinois Birds and Birding* 2:76). In *Birds of*