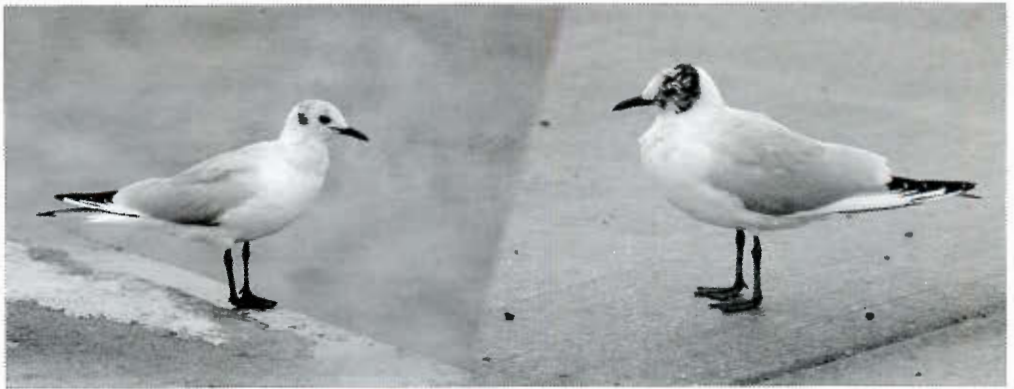


Black-headed
Gull plumage
comparison in 16
days. Montrose
Harbor,
Cook County.
Photo by Kanae
Hirabayashi.



28 February — 15 March 2007



3 March 2007

Photo by
Steve Spitzer.



2 March 2007

Photo by
Jim Frazier.



3 March 2007



Photos by Emil Martinec.

Illinois (1989), David H. Bohlen called the Common Black-headed Gull a very rare vagrant, which had recently colonized North America. He reports other records including one at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge 13 December 1987, and one in Chicago 15 July 1976, another in Chicago 24 October 1981

and another in Chicago 5 May 1982. (See page 85 in his book for a list of records recorded before 1989 in Illinois).

This European gull is slightly larger than a Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). In alternate plumage, its bill is red, compared with the dark bill of a Bonaparte's.

In all plumages of the Black-headed Gull, the undersurface of the primaries is blackish, not so with Bonaparte's.

The 2007 Illinois Black-headed Gull was observed 24 February 2007 through 25 March 2007, giving birders nearly a full month to add it to their life lists. Steve Bailey