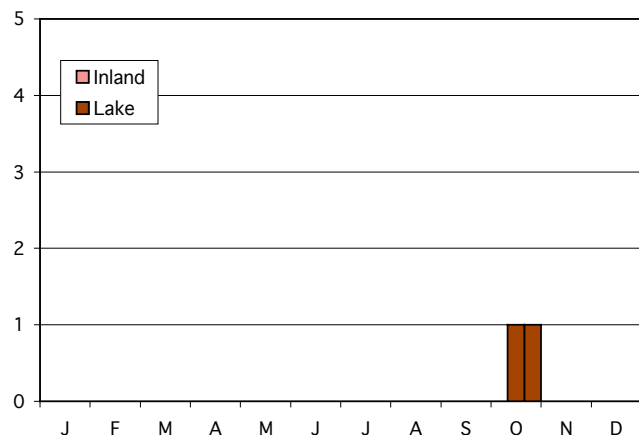


Kelp Gull

Larus dominicanus

Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's single record of this Southern Hemisphere gull occurred 19 October 1996 when a third-year bird was discovered on the Hammond Marina beach (Brock 1997).



Current Status

The Kelp Gull is Accidental (10).

Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known Indiana specimens, but a photograph was published in Brock (1997) and video is on file with the Indiana Bird Records Committee (Gorney 2004).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	n	n	10
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	n	n	n	n
Entire State	n	n	n	n

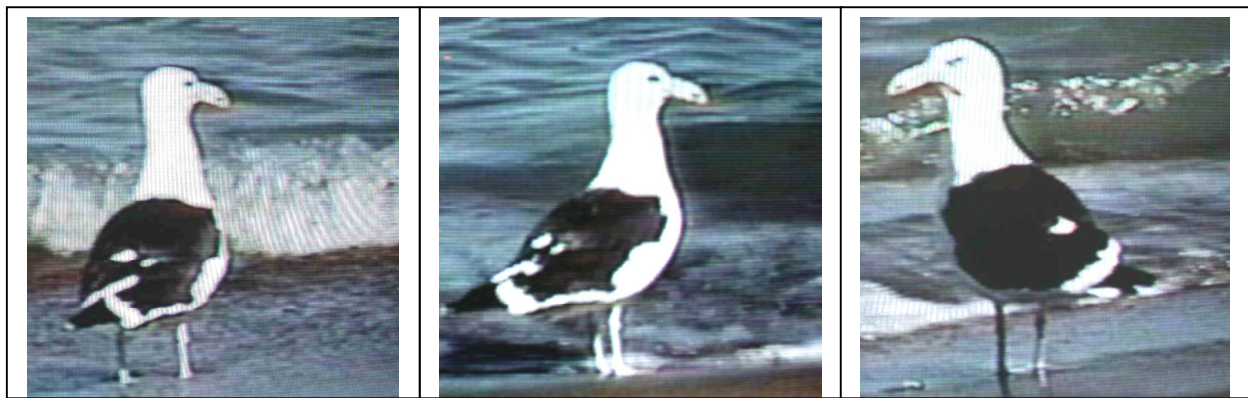


Third-year Kelp Gull (right) with two Herring Gulls at Hammond Marina 19 October 1996. Video capture by K.J. Brock.

Occurrence

It is difficult to imagine better circumstances under which to discover an extremely rare and difficult to identify bird: two field-tripping Audubon Societies (South Bend and Stockbridge) were present, a majority of the state's Bird Records Committee members were on the scene (including J.K. Cassady, J.A. Haw, L.S. Hinchman, E.M. Hopkins, and J.J. McCoy), and J.L. Dunn, a professional tour leader, added credibility to the report. Fortunately Dunn had recently seen a third-year Kelp Gull on the Texas coast and his first comment upon viewing the bird was, "it's a dead ringer for the Texas bird."

The gull was studied at length on the 19th and was seen again the following morning at the discovery site. About a week later (26 October 1996) it was rediscovered by R.D. Hughes et al. at the Gary landfill (Brock 1997).



Three shots of the 19 October 1996 Hammond Marina Kelp Gull. Note the visible “skirt” on the folded wing, reflecting a wide secondary bar. The cadaver gray legs are also well illustrated. Video captures by K.J. Brock.

References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1997) Middlewestern Prairie Region, Autumn Season 1996, *Nat. Audubon Soc. Field Notes* 51:62-67.

Gorney, D. (2004) Report of the Indiana Bird Records Committee-2003, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 82:2-18.