

tending 2 to 3 inches beyond the tail tip, and the tip of the secondaries came to within an inch of the tail tip. The head was noticeably small for the size of the bird and the bill, orangey yellow with a red spot at the gonys like a Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), was long and slender, about 3 times as long as deep and with almost no suggestion of a gonydeal angle. Leg color (was difficult to determine); the knees were a dark, dirty pink, and the tibia were darker (the color was clearly in contrast to the yellow-green of adult Ring-billed Gulls and the fleshy pink of Herring Gulls and immature Ring-bills); the feet were never seen. The eye was small and appeared to be uniformly dark.

My general impression of the bird was a gull the shape of an overgrown Ring-billed Gull, or even better, the long-winged extreme of Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*), only with a mantle like a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) but darker, although not quite the slaty black of the Great Black-backed Gull. Because of the problems associated with identification of this species in North America, I comment on why I think all other species (and most hybrids) can be eliminated. Soft part colors can be attributed to the bird's immaturity. The small size of the bird, and in particular the small-headed, slender-billed, long-winged appearance at once eliminates Great Black-backed Gull, Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*), Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*), and Herring X Great Black-backed hybrids, all of which are larger than most Herring Gulls and noticeably heavier billed, as are the two most similar Old World races of Herring Gull, *L. a. atlantis* and *L. a. heuglini*. In addition the former is paler than *fuscus* (Scheider and Probst both thought this bird was darker than the bird which wintered at Ithaca); *heuglini* could only be eliminated on the basis of size, but presumably is also slightly paler. Of the European forms, only the Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus graellsii*) has been documented for North America. Counting all appearances of the Ithaca bird as 1 record, this appears to be the 4th record in New York State away from Region 10, and the second for Region 5.

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Ed. comment: The writer of this note is to be commended for an excellent job of documentation without being unnecessarily wordy. Those reporting rarities are sometimes upset over being asked to document carefully their observation, not realizing that it is not merely a question of full verification but also to enable a reader, now or in decades to come, to evaluate the report accurately. Too often good sight records have had to be thrown out for lack of background information.

A late and hungry Ruby-throated Hummingbird: On September 29, 1971, sometime after the usual last date for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in our area, I was surprised to have one appear in my yard, circle half way around me, very close, and then light on a low iris plant. It sat with eyes closed and feathers ruffled up. I thought it might be sick, but on the chance that it might be hungry I went to the house and fixed one of my feeders with sugar solution. I held the feeder to the bird's bill and it drank and drank. I fed it a total of four times, at intervals, and each time it seemed more lively and would fly a little. Finally I hung the feeder on the fence, and was delighted to see the hummingbird visit it regularly for several days. On October 11 it was still there, and I saw it for the last time when it hovered a foot from the window in which I stood with my granddaughter, who was wearing a brilliant red tee-shirt.

This seemed an unusually late date for the species, especially as our elevation is 1485 feet and our birds tend to leave earlier than those farther north or at lower elevations. Our home is about five miles north-east of Delhi, New York.

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