

Plate 3. "Adult" primary patterns of presumed Thayer's Gulls *Larus thayeri* (a-o, I) and selected Nearctic congeners (II-V). Main figures show wings spread more fully than usually seen in the field, in order to show the inner webs; four left-hand figures show selected patterns of half-closed wings (not to scale). All wing-tip patterns from video or photographic material taken in Marin County, California, December 1999 (except II, from Newfoundland, February 2000; courtesy P. Doherty/Bird Images). © Martin T. Elliott.

Figures a-o (with possible exception of b), show birds judged to be at least in their 4th winter. Sub-sets of three are arranged in rows to show possible development of primary pattern types with advancing age. Figures a-l depict probable normal range of "typical" adult *thayeri*; intermediate patterns occurred and can be inferred from the patterns shown (see Table 1 for relative frequency of each pattern). Note that no birds showed extensive black on P9 in conjunction with classic *thayeri* pattern on P10; that extent of dark on outer webs of P8 and P9 is presumed to be affected by age; and that melanism on P5 and P6 appears unreliable as a sole character for ageing.

a-c. Presumed "young adult" *thayeri*, indicated by extensive primary melanism, e.g., on P9 and outer webs of P8, and (in the case of b) other plumage and bare-part features. All presumed < 5th winter (with b possibly an advanced 3rd winter).

d-f. Adult *thayeri* (> 4th winter) with continuously black outer webs to P9.

g-i. Adult *thayeri* (> 4th winter) with complete medial band to P10.

j-l. Presumed older adult *thayeri* (> 5th winter) with classic *thayeri* pattern on P9 and P10, melanism reduced on P5-P8.

m-o. Adult *Larus* sp. (> 4th winter) with reduced or paler primary melanism and/or paler upperparts than typical *thayeri*. These were the only three (of 120 3rd-winter or older birds) paler than deemed acceptable as pure *thayeri*; in addition, n and o were also "abnormally" small-billed, slender, and generally smaller than presumed female *thayeri* present, suggesting introgression with *kumlienii*/*glaucooides*.

I. Example of 3rd-winter *thayeri* upperwing pattern. Note extensively dark outer webs to P7-P9 and diffuse, poorly-defined dark areas on inner webs of P9 and P10.

II. Adult *L. a. smithsonianus* with extreme *thayeri*-like wing-tip pattern; such birds are commonest in north-eastern North America (Macpherson 1961), rare in central California in winter (SNGH, pers. obs.) and are best separated from *thayeri* by size, structure, and bare-part colours.

III-IV. Examples of adult presumed *L. glaucescens* x *L. a. smithsonianus* hybrids. The full range of wing-tip patterns in this hybrid combination still needs to be established; many resemble *thayeri* and such birds are best identified by structural and bare-part characters.

V. Example of *thayeri*-like wing-tip pattern of adult presumed *L. glaucescens* x *L. occidentalis* hybrid. Such birds are usually separated readily from *thayeri* by structural and bare-part characters, and frequently are darker above.

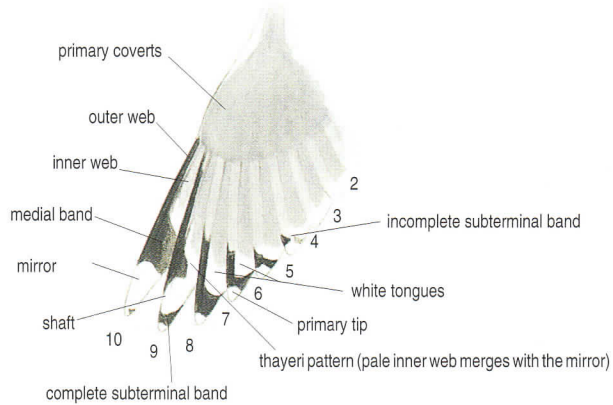


Plate 2c. Terminology used in this paper; note the distinction between subterminal and medial bands. © Martin T. Elliott.

