

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) How many? 2 1st yr. im.Location? Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Lee Co., IowaType of habitat? Mostly frozen open river near power plant at the lock and dam.When? date(s): January 13, 1985 time: 11:45 am. to 12:15 p.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Bob Cecilothers before or after you: None that I know of

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Bob Cecil and I were checking the gulls at the lock and dam in Keokuk when we noticed two of the birds had very light translucent primaries. The two birds overall were a very light tan to cream color. There was no darkness at all in the primaries. There was not a discernable tail band. The eye was dark. The legs were a very light pink color. The bill was bicolored, the front $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ was blackish with the rest being a light pink color about the same color or a little darker than the legs. The bill on both birds was very large and massive looking. The two birds were larger than the Herring Gulls near-by and much larger than the one or two Ring-billed Gulls seen close to them, completely dwarfing them in flight. Their flight was somewhat labored compared to the Herring Gulls flight. No voice was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: No other large gull has a pink bill with a black tip like these birds did.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Very good to excellent viewing conditions, partly cloudy. Seen from approx. 75 yards at closest using 10x40 Leitz binoculars and Celestron C90 telescope at 33X and 55X.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No previous experience with this speciesReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 15 min. this form completed? 30 hrs.

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