

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Glaucous Gull How many? 1 (2nd yr.)Location? Lake Manawa - Pottawattamie CountyType of habitat? Lake - near Missouri Riv.When? date(s): March 19, 1982 time: 9:30 A.M. to 9:45 A.M.Who? your name and address: Robert K. Myers, 1236 Sylvia Ave., Waterloo, Iowa, 50701others with you: —others before or after you: —

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.

Bird was first spotted sitting on ice feeding with small flock of ring-billed gulls. The birds would occasionally hold out their wings to balance and brace themselves in the strong wind.

1. Size + Shape - Very large gull - much bigger than ring-bills it was with and probably larger than herring.
2. Color - Plumage was white everywhere - absolutely no black in wings - white on back (not gray)
3. bill - bill was very massive and had a dark band around front end. The rest of the bill was light.

Similar species and how eliminated: Iceland Gull is possible but size (glaucous is bigger) and the complete white plumage of this glaucous eliminates the iceland.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Overcast day and windy - but ~~the~~ bird's marks could easily be seen thru 7X35 binoculars and 25X scope - closest approach was probably 70-100 yds.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No experience with glaucous but much with ring-bills and herringsReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? on the spot this form completed? 1 day

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