

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Glaucous Gull How many? 1 adLocation? Mahaffy Bridge - Coralville Res., Johnson Co., IAType of habitat? ReservoirWhen? date(s): 5 Mar 1983 time: 10:45 to 10:48Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City IA 52240others with you: noneothers before or after you: none

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.

First Gull I looked at was all white. No dark in wing tips. Body and wing coverts had a slight gray tone. Bird flew in front of me and then down river. Wing beat slow and heavy. Appear to be same size or larger than Herring Gulls in same field of view, but direct comparison difficult. Bill and leg color could not be adequately evaluated.

Similar species and how eliminated: Size and probability tend to eliminate Iceland Gull. Too light for Thayer's. White wing tips exclude Herring.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Overcast. 100 yds (est). 8x binoculars.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen 1st year birds in Iowa, adults in Alaska.References and persons consulted before writing description: noneHow long before field notes made? none made this form completed? 6 hours

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