

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? GLAUCOUS GULL How many? 1 immatureLocation? Along Des Moines River below Saylorville dam, Polk Co.Type of habitat? Above open flowing riverWhen? date(s): 26 November 1986 time: ^{10:30} ~~10:30~~ a.m. to ^{11:00} ~~11:00~~ a.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Tom Kent, Robert Cecil, Steve Dinsmore, Jim Fullerothers before or after you: m.ob.

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.

We were watching gulls down river from the dam outlet. They were feeding on shad at a bend in the river. One of the gulls was much larger than the others. This bird was overall a medium beige color with no trace of black in the wing tips. It was larger than the Herring Gulls flying nearby. The bill was large with the tip black. The basal 3/4 was a light brownish to tan color. I feel this bird was too light and feather worn to be a 1st ~~year~~ winter bird. It was more of a sandy color with very little feather edging on the wing coverts + tertials. This bird was more than likely a 2nd winter bird.

Similar species and how eliminated: This bird too large for Iceland and Thayer's Gulls.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Windy, sunny to overcast, good lighting; closest distance approx. 100 feet. using 10x40 binoculars.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Glaucous Gulls before this, no experience with Iceland Gull and have seen 2 Thayer's Gulls, one right after this Glaucous.
References and persons consulted before writing description:How long before field notes made? 8 hrs. this form completed? 24 hrs.

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