

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Glaucous Gull How many? 1 prob. 2nd. winterLocation? Jayloville Reservoir, Polk CountyType of habitat? open strip of water on large, frozen reservoir.When? date(s): 30 Nov. 1988 time: 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 A.M.Who? your name and address: Steve Dinmore 4624 Arkansas Dr. Ames IA 50010others 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 slightly longer (2-3") than nearby Herring Gulls and much heavier. Bill was also more massive and dark, with some light color at base.

Entire bird, including back, wings, tail, head, and underparts were white, except for some brown/black speckles on the back, wings, and sides.

In flight, the primaries and secondaries were entirely white with no trace of any dark color.

Leg color was not seen well.

Based on the relatively sparse speckling on back and wings and sides, the bird was probably a 2nd. winter Glaucous Gull.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Iceland Gull eliminated by smaller size (smaller than Herring Gull), smaller, darker bill, and small-headed appearance.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NoIf yes, explain: —

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

light was good, despite totally overcast sky and intermittent rain/snow. Estimated viewing distance was 200-250+ yards. I used a B&L 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have never seen either a Glaucous or Iceland Gull prior to this.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NBS Field Guide to Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? —

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240