

WHITE

JAN 26 1983

Documentation of a Glaucous Gull; number seen (one)

On Mississippi River, 1/2 mile North of Lock and Dam 15 at Davenport IA, Scott Co..

Habitat: Ice covered river with residential area of each bank.

Seen on Jan. 23, 1983 from 12:45 PM to 1:10 PM  
by Gerald D. White 1505 East 5th St. Muscatine, IA 52761  
and Peter Petersen 235 McClellan Blvd. Davenport IA 52803

The bird was sitting on the ice with several Herring and Ring-Billed Gulls, it was facing away from me and holding its wings slightly away from its body. I could not see the wing tips or tail because my view was blocked by another bird. Its color was a dirty white (not unlike old snow). The birds were turning their heads toward an outside disturbance and I saw the bill was more massive and longer than the other gulls, the tip of the upper and lower mandible looked as though it had been dipped in black ink, the rest of the bill was flesh-colored with tint of the yellow side as apposed to pink. The tip color indicated a 2 yr. juvenile

The birds then took wing and the bird had a longer wing span than the Herring and Ring-Billed Gulls. The top side of the head, wing, back and tail was nearly a uniform white. The underside of the bird including the breast and belly had a molted washed out brown look.

After circling a couple times the bird landed on the ice approximately 800 yds. away, this was when Mr. Petersen joined me. The distance prevented us from observing the feet or bill but while it was standing on the ice we noted the size was larger than the Herring Gulls next to it and the color was a uniform white.

Similar species: Iceland and Ivory Gull would have been smaller, Glaucous-Winged Gull would have had darker primaries

We agreed on identification

Light and conditions: Overcast but bright, all distances approximate, sitting observation 150 yds. with Bushnell zoom X60MM telescope; flying observation with zoom X35MM binoculars at 8X; standing observation 800yds. with zoom X60MM telescope.

Life bird for myself, seen as regular bird for Mr. Petersen

Reference: Field guide for similar species

No field notes and completed documentation three days later

GERALD WHITE

*Gerald White*

1505 E 5th St  
Muscatine IA 52761  
319-263-3464