

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

Accepted by  
F. Reed

1. Species Glaucous Gull 2. Number 1

3. Location Look 15 Davenport IA

4. Date: 2 Jan 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 12<sup>15</sup> to 12<sup>20</sup>

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Bird resting on water with a Herring Gull. Could tell it was probably a Glaucous with naked eye. With binocs - all white - no dark in primaries, bill light with black tip (1/4), slightly larger than Herring Gull. Dark eye. After a while the bird flew confirming all white or slightly off white appearance. Pink legs seen. 45 min later the bird was sitting on the dam and appear all white at a distance. Appearance suggests an adult bird.

7. Description of voice, if heard: NA

8. Description of behavior: swimming, flying, standing

9. Habitat - general: Mississippi River below dam

specific: Downtown Davenport

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

Iceland, Herring Gulls

11. Distance (how measured)?

50 yards (guess), 30ft (flying)

12. Optical equipment:

8x40 Thomas

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Sun to left of me

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

Seen twice in Iowa & in Alaska

15. Other observers: Bill Kent

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes, but inexperienced

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

notes 5 minutes, final 4 hours

Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St

Date: 2 Jan 1981 City, State: Iowa City IA