

Glaucous Gull

Dec. 6, 1978

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Clear, sunny, 8° F

Lake Manawa, Iowa

Large, fresh water lake - 3/4 frozen

Observers:

Tanya Bray - 9708 Grover St., Omaha, 68124 397-4914

Sandy Kovanda - 8002 S. 45 Ave., Omaha, 68157 731-8249

Babs Padelford - 1405 Little John Rd., Bellevue, 68005 292-5556

Spotting scopes: 25X, 30X, 30X

Binoculars: 8X, 6X, 8X

A large, white-winged gull tentatively identified as a Glaucous was seen Dec. 5 by R.G. Cortelyou.

At 10:30 a.m. (Dec. 6) we spotted a large, white gull in the middle of the lake at the edge of the open water - approximately 700 feet away. At this distance the gull appeared very white. We estimated that it was about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the size of the common mergansers swimming past it. When the gull flew within 75 feet of us, we noted a large, flesh-colored bill with a definite black tip, a pure white head, and cream colored wings & tail with light mottling. He circled the lake and landed on the far side. We continued around the lake and viewed him from approximately 450 feet. When seated on the ice, the tail extended beyond wings.

All of us are familiar with herring gulls. The large size, white plumage, and absence of black on wing tips eliminated this species.

— first seen at L. Manawa in  
1941, most records since  
then from Mississippi  
See also BW