

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

Accepted by Field

1. Species glaucous gull, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr imm. 2. Number 1-2  
 3. Location Lock 14, Davenport, Iowa  
 4. Date: 4 Jan (2 birds), 11 Jan (1) 5. Time Bird Seen: 1:30 - 2:30 PM 1/4/81  
10 - 10:30 AM to 1/11/81

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):

Size: markedly larger and longer-winged than herring gulls (many opportunities for close comparison). One of the two glaucous was slightly smaller and shorter-billed than the other. Bill + head more massive than herring gull's.

plumage: head and underparts pure white with sparse darker markings. wing tips (primaries) and tail pure white. mantle pale grey, much paler than herring gull's.

bill: pinkish-white with sharply defined blackish tip, occupying the distal 1/4 of its length.

legs: pink, pale.

perched: wingtips of the larger bird protruded ~ 1/2" past tip of tail.

7. Description of voice, if heard: —

8. Description of behavior: asleep on ice with H6, flying in wheeling flock with H6, <sup>quarantining water below dam, dipping into water for food; swimming; perched on dam abutment</sup>

9. Habitat - general: ice above Dam 15; open water below it.

specific: ~~Mississippi River~~

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: pure white primaries rule out all but Iceland (L. glaucoides). Large size and massive bill rule out this species.

11. Distance (how measured)? 50' - 200 yds (est). 12. Optical equipment: 8X40 binocs  
85X60 } scope  
62X150 }

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
<sup>seen at various angles, including many with sun behind obs.</sup>  
<sup>both days bright and sunny.</sup>

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: <sup>Have seen</sup> many glaucous in MASS and other states, as well as Iceland (L. glaucoides) and Kumliess (L. g. kumliessi); <sup>have also seen</sup> many glaucous-winged gulls and a few Thayer's (L. thayeri and L. glaucescens) in WA and AK.

15. Other observers:  
 R. D. Coster, Carol Newton

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:  
 M. ob.

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?  
<sup>Notes taken during period bird was under obs. Transcribed 3/9/81</sup>

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Date: 3/9/81 City, State: Iowa City IA 52248