

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Glaucous Gull

How Many?1-4 first- and second-winter birds

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.

Habitat?feeding on large reservoir and resting on beach area

Date?22-24 Nov 1986

Time?initial observation was at 12:50 P.M. on 22 Nov

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:B.J. Rose, Loren and Babs Padelford, Bob Myers

Description of bird:A quite large gull, even larger than nearby Herring Gulls. The head, mantle, tail, and underparts were a very light beige color. The outer primaries were silvery white, both above and below. The legs were pink. The bill was very large and bicolored with a pinkish base and a dark tip.

Similar species and how eliminated:Iceland Gull eliminated by larger size and proportionately heavier bill. The large size and light colored tail eliminated a light colored Thayer's Gull.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent with the sky partly cloudy and the sun mostly behind me. Estimated viewing distance was 75 yards at closest. I used a Buschnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen several Glaucous Gulls in Iowa in the last year.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?2 days