

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? GLAUCOUS GULL - 1st winter How many? 1
 Location? ^{15th - Landfill} East of Arnold's Park in Dickinson County
14th - East of Isthmus between E. Okoboji lake and W. Okoboji lake
 Type of habitat? ^{15 - Landfill} It was standing on the ice then flew over me into
 When? date(s): Nov 14 - 15, 1995 time: 4:30 to 5:00 W. Okoboji
 Who? your name and address: Ed. Thelen RR 8725 Spirit Lake IA 51360
 others with you: _____
 others before or after you: _____

↓
glacial
Lakes
ringed
w/houses

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Spotted large white gull standing on the ice \approx 200 yds off shore. It was huge - much larger than some nearby ring-billed gulls. It looked at least as large if not larger than 2 herring gulls which were approximately 100 yds to the right of the glaucous and the same distance from me.

Its pure white primaries were lighter and whiter than the rest of the gull which was a uniform creamy white.

Its bill was bi-colored - dark on anterior end.

Similar species and how eliminated:

- Glaucous-winged Gull has all dark bill
- Herring Gull - much darker

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Nov 14th - Fair - fading light - estimated distance - 8.5 x 44 binocs
 Nov 15th Good - As I watched the bird the sun ^{was to my right} 30x-40x scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

- I've seen all white gulls before but never took the time to identify.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson's field guide to birds Audubon's master guide to birds

How long before field notes made? same day this form completed? 2 weeks

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