

Iceland Gull  
28 Dec 1996  
s. of Muscatine, Muscatine Co., IA  
\*Gerald White  
IBL 67:60, 82

Record Number: 96-70  
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Gerald White, 1505 East 5th St., Muscatine 52761 [6/15/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 67:60  
Records Committee: IBL 67:82

VOTE: 2 A-D, 5 NA

A-D, (1st winter)

A-D, Although the description is brief, the white primaries, white tail without barring, and bill size and color are sufficient for identification in my opinion.

NA, Some reservations: viewing through fog with binoculars at 100 yards. No mention of leg color or head shape. Should have a faint subterminal band not seen. Size, bill shape and color, general color, and light primaries all point to Iceland. Thayer's Gull not eliminated.

NA, Parts of the description are suggestive of 1st winter Iceland Gull. Kumlein's, however, would show some duskiness in the primaries and normally in the tail. Nominate Iceland would be unprecedented. No mention of structural differences, wing length, etc. Bill color should rule out Glaucous but I can't rule out leucistic Herring or even a Nelson's based on description.

NA, Close call. Presumably Iceland based on bill color, overall size, and all white appearance. First, we need to know which side of the river it was on. The first winter Iceland Gulls that I have seen had faint tail bands and were otherwise relatively uniformly colored. Observation time was short. Likely correct.

NA, Size described is not right for this species, should be smaller than Herring. Bill size is also not right, should be smaller and more petite than Herring. Also the tail should show some light speckling on the terminal edge. Primaries were described as being white, should be translucent. The legs should also be pink color not dark. Could this be an albinistic Herring or some other similar sized species.

NA, While suggestive, the brief view (in fog?) is a problem. Also confusing is the mantle color "gray and light brown". I find that ID of some of these white-winged gulls when not seen in flight can be tricky.

96-70

Documentation for Iceland Gull: One bird. Seen on 12/28/96 on Muscatine Christmas Bird Count. On the Mississippi River approximately three miles south of Lock 16. Seen at 1150 AM and was in view for about two min. by Gerald White 1505 E. 5<sup>th</sup>. St. Muscatine, IA 52761 others with me were Betty Wood and Keith Blunt, both of Muscatine.

The bird was mostly white with some gray and light brown color to the mantel and wing coverts, with white primaries from both above and below. The tail was solid white. The legs appeared dark.

The bill was mostly dark but darkest at the tip. The bill appeared smaller than the bills of nearby Herring Gulls. The bird size was near the same size or smaller than the Herring Gulls.

I didn't make the ID until consulting my field guides. Betty Woods and Keith Blunt has little experience with Gulls.

I eliminated Glaucous Gull because it would have been larger and heavier looking and the bill would not have been all dark.

I was using 10X binoculars at about 100 yards. There was fog on the river.

I have seen 1<sup>st</sup> year Glaucous Gull.

Submitted 01/05/97 from notes made on 12/29/96



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