

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 09/03/93

Iceland Gull

28 Jan 1975

Lock and Dam 14, Scott Co., IA

Peter C. Petersen

separated from Sadler record of 12/15/74; IBL 45:23; 57:43

Record Number: 85-AD

Classification: NA

Separated from Sadler record at meeting of 10/5/85.

VOTE: 2-IV, 3-V, 2-abstain

Iceland Gull

85-AD

Petersen, P. C. 1975. First Iceland Gull for Iowa. Iowa Bird Life 45:23.

First Iceland Gull for Iowa -- During the Davenport Christmas Bird Count on December 15, 1974, 9:30 A.M., an adult Iceland Gull was seen at Lock No. 14, Pleasant Valley, Iowa by Ernest Sadler and Mark Henderson. This description is copied from the documentation form: "Small, white gull. Shape seemed more streamlined, not as heavy looking or bulky as other gulls. Plumage gave an all white appearance from below with no markings or variations in color. Back appearance - some variation in shade, very light gray with a lighter appearance from tip of wings along the back of wings. No marking on bill, yellow and small, feet pink." The bird was in the company of hundreds of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls providing direct size comparison. It was seen at a distance of 30 yards with 7 x 35 power binoculars. The light was good, the weather high overcast and the observers are familiar with Glaucous Gulls. Prior to this observation a bird answering this description was seen on December 2, 1974, at Campbell's Island, East Moline, Illinois, away from the Mississippi channel, by Elton Fawks. This site is about two miles downstream from Lock No. 14. Fawks and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink observed the same bird Fawks had seen on December 2 on December 21 at Lock No. 14 from the Illinois shore. At least two immature Glaucous Gulls were present in the area of Lock No. 14 in late December and early January. Fawks saw the Iceland four times in January and three times in February. On January 28, 1975, the author saw an entirely white gull noticeably smaller than Ring-billed Gulls standing with it at Lock No. 14 at a range of 150 yards with a 20 x scope. The last Iceland observation was by Fawks on February 18. PETER C. PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport.