

Sept 4/6

2001-16

ACCEPTED

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form** (This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.) Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X:  
RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) GLAUCOUS- WINGED GULL (Scientific Name)Larus glaucescens

Date(s) of occurrence: MARCH 9, 2001

Number of birds seen: **one** Sex: Plumage: **2nd basic**

Exact location: Cherry Creek Res, in the middle of the res, east of the sailboard point

County: Nearest town: Aurora Elevation: 5350 feet

Length of observation: 1/2 hr Time(s) of observation: 11:25 to 11:55 AM

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: none

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Mostly sunny, high cirrus clouds, wind light and variable. Temp 54 F, The bird was basically due east of me with the sun high, off my right shoulder.

Optical equipment used: Kowa TSN4 scope , 20 x 60 zoom

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 150 to 200 yards est.

Was bird(s) photographed? no If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Fresh water lake

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification):

The bird was observed with other gulls ( Ringed-billed, Herring and California) in the middle of the lake harrasing a flock of Common (mostly) and Red-breasted Mergansers. The gulls were stealing fish from the mergs. as they surfaced. The bird would swim at various speeds and/ or fly short distances to rob mergansers of their catch. The bird was successful twice during the time of my observation. It was still harassing the flock when I left.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

**The bird was a large gull , about the size of the few Herring Gulls present. Maybe 'slightly' bigger. The bird in flight seemed heavy chested, with wide based wings, and wide , short tail. Over all the bird was a light brownish gray wash without any real contrast from head to tail, except for the mostly black bill. The swimming bird showed a mostly black bill with some pale creaping in at the base ( both upper and lower). The bill was moderate in length without any obvious gonyeal angle. The head was flat crowned with a dark eye. The brownish gray of the head seem a bit darker on the nape and almost white on the chin and throat. The mantle and upper scapulars were a pale, light, pure gray., without markings. This was very difficult to see and took along time to visualize. The tertials were brownish gray based with pale borders. The primaries were ever so slightly darker than the tertials' base. The primary extension appeared short ( hard to see with no contrast).**

**On the flying bird the following was noted. Most obvious were the pink legs. The rump was white and the tail had a broad subterminal brownish gray band and a small pale (white) terminal band. The subterminal band color was consistant with the rest of the bird and was only noticable because of the terminal band and rump color. The outer primaries ( 10, 9, ?8) were brownish gray, the inner primaries were paler both from above and below. There was maybe a little contrast in color between the coverts and the inner primaries and secondaries both upper and lower. The underside of the bird showed a wide belly band mainly due to the lighter colored breast and vent area.**

Describe bird's call or song: **None heard**

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **My main concerns were some type of hybred, Thayers Gull and Glaucous Gull. I ruled out Glaucous Gull because of the primaries being of similar color to the rest of bird and not lighter or white. And by the bill coloration and eye color. A pale Thayers Gull poses a much more difficult situation. I felt that the bill structure was too heavy and the mantle color was too light for Thayers Gull. The over all color was more gray in this bird rather than the brown tones of Thayers Gull. One would also expect Thayers Gull to show more contrast ( browner) on the upper , outer primaries. Thayers Gull is also smaller than Herring Gull but was of little use in this situation. Lastly, was this bird a hybred? I felt that is was not. I believe all the field marks fall within normal variation of this species. A GW x Herring hybred would probably show more contrast in the primaries, have a darker secondary band, have a darker colored mantle and may or may not have a yellow eye. A GW x Glaucous hybred , a problem . I do not think this bird was either a GW x Western or a Glaucous x Herring hybred.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **I have seen just a few birds here in colorado**

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

**1) Sibley Guide to Birds 1st Ed, 2) Large Gull Video Van der Poel/ Dunn**

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory x

Date of written report: **March 9 2001**

Reporting observer: Signature: *ROL Ric Olson*

Reporting Observer's Address: **9450 N Heather Dr. Castle Rock Co 80104**

City: State: Zip: **303-790-7753**

**Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee c/o Bill Lisowsky 2919 Silverplume Dr. Ft. Collins, Co. 80526**

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