

CFO-RC FILE # _____

(Video by Todd
Olley also)

Red 1/99 wpl

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORMRESULTS ACCEPT 7-0NEW STATE RECORD

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES IceLand Gull Larus glaucoides
(COMMON NAME) (SCIENTIFIC NAME)DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE 1-9-99NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN one SEX _____ PLUMAGE 1st BASICEXACT LOCATION VALCO Pond #1COUNTY Pueblo NEAREST TOWN Pueblo ELEVATION 5000'LENGTH OF OBSERVATION ~30 min TIME OF OBSERVATION 0730-0800OTHER OBSERVERS: SEE ATTACHED LISTLIGHT CONDITIONS Early Am (Sunrise) Bird to North of observers with
Sun off Right side of shoulderOPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: Ziess 10x40 AND Kowa TSN4 20x60 zoomDISTANCE FROM THE BIRD: est. 80 yardsWAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED (Y) PHOTOGRAPHS SUBMITTED (Y)
WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? SEE ATTACHED SHEETDESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD
OCCURRED: FRESH WATER POND, 1/2 FROZEN, BIRD WASSTANDING ON ICE AND SWIMMING ON EDGEAlso preening.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIOR USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE ID):

BIRD WAS OBSERVED STANDING ON ICE, BATHING AT EDGE of ICE, PREENING in WATER AND ON ICE PLAYING WITH A small PIECE of ICE WITH MOUTH AND FLYING OVER Pond (CIRCLING) AND THEN FLYING OFF. to the SOUTH EAST. All WITH-IN or OVER A REST GROUP of gulls. (EST. number of ABOUT 150-175)

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE, AND HOW YOU PLACES 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 ID. THE BIRD. DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYES, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT TO MAKING THE ID..(ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, SKETCHES, OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES) :

SIZE: BIRD WAS smaller than HERRING GULLS (PRESENT, ADULT & 1st & 2nd BASIC) AND LARGER than R.B. GULLS (ADULT & 1st BASIC). IT WAS ABOUT 70% THE SIZE of HERRING gulls.

THE BIRD 1st ATTRACTED ATTENTION DUE to its PALENESS. Among other gulls. NOT BECAUSE of its SIZE. THE OVERALL APPEARANCE of the BIRD WAS A WARM, DELICATE bird with smooth flowing lines.

HEAD: Bill - Bicolored, thin with a small gonyle angle. The black tip EXTENDS 2/3 of the way to a PALE BASE. BLACK EXTENDING FURTHER ALONG EDGES. BILL AT TIMES APPEARED ALL BLACK. EYE - BLACK APPEARED LARGE for head.

HEAD - SHAPE WAS EVENLY ROUNDED WITH OUT ANGLES or FLATNESS. BASIC color WAS white with TAN or LIGHT REDDISH BROWN WASH EXTENDING from BACK of CROWN (TOP of NAPE) behind EYE into EAR COVERTS AND slightly on to the THROAT give the bird the appearance of FACIAL DISCS LIKE that of A No. HARRIER or OWL. NAPE - WHITE Chin & NECK (FORE) - WHITE

Body - MANTLE, SCAPULARS - white with LIGHT TAN - THE LIGHT TAN of EACH FEATHER WAS Lined UP giving the Bird a Banded appearance. SAME WAS TRUE of BREAST, belly & flanks however the BREAST & belly WERE WORN MORE AND APPEARED MORE WHITE

Legs: Light pink, MEDIUM in Length

Wings: PRIMARIES - PURE white (TOP & BOTTOM) - much LIGHTER than REST of wing SECONDARIES, COVERTS & ~~SCAPULARS~~ had THE SAME Banded appearance AS MANTLE & SCAPULARS AND WERE SAME color. BAND FLOWED TOGETHER giving the bird A NEAT & ORGANIZED appearance. OPEN WINGS - SHOWED LITTLE color or SHADE difference BETWEEN THE COVERTS & SECONDARIES NO SECONDARY BAND NOTED. PRIMARIES WERE NOTABLY LIGHTER. PRIMARIES EXTENDED well beyond TAIL (~~P-1~~ P-1 then P-3)

TAI. UNDERTAIL COVERTS WERE COLORED & BARRED SAME AS the BACK & WINGS TAIL NOT OBSERVED CLEARLY OTHER THEN STRAIGHT EDGED, of similar color REST of body and UN-BANDED

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

① Glaucous-winged Gull
1st Basic

(A) SIZE - LARGER than Herring gull

(B) HEAVIER, MORE ROBUST BILL

(C) PRIMARIES - color matches or DARKER than Body / TERTIALS

② Glaucous Gull

1st Basic

(A) SIZE - LARGER than herring gull

(B) BILL - SHAPE & DEMARCATED BLACK TIP, ALSO MUCH BIGGER, ↑ gonyk angle

(C) HEAD FLATTER -

(D) HEAVIER STOCKIER LOOKING BIRD.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES: • ICELAND WAS A Lifer

- SEEN VERY FEW of GWGU or GUGU

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR ID. (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

BRANDON, DAVE & I READ P.J. GRANT Gull I.D. while observing this bird going thru I.D. MARKS & SEPARATING FEATURES NOTED on pgs 141 & 141. (2nd Ed)
NOTED WERE ① SIZE ② BILL SIZE & color ③ STRUCTURE ④ PRIMARY EXTENSION
⑤ EYE SIZE

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING Taped NOTE OR AFTER
OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT 1-9-99

REPORTING OBSERVER : RIC OLSON

SIGNATURE ROL

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1999-171

CFO-ORC-FILE# _____

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Recd 1/99 wpl

Results: ACCEPT 7-0

Species:

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucooides

Dates: 1/9/99

Number of birds seen: one

Sex: ?

Plumage: basic

Locality: Valco ponds

Elevation: 4600 feet

Nearest town: Pueblo

County: Pueblo

Time observed: about 7:40 am to 7:50 am

Duration of observation: 10 minutes (estimated, not timed - others in the group felt we observed it much longer)

Other observers with you: Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, Sherry Chapman, John Vanderpoel, Todd Dilley, Justin Rink

Other observers who saw the bird independently: Tony Leukering may have seen it

Light conditions: early morning sun to our right

Optical equipment: Svarovski ST80 scope, usually zoomed to about 30 or 40 power

Distance from bird: I would guess about 100 yards.

Describe the bird's behavior: Standing on the ice on a small pond. It eventually flew and landed again and then flew off. It occasionally preened.

Describe the bird (what you actually saw):

Ric Olson spotted the bird first and told us he had an interesting pale first winter bird. It was obviously much paler than the first winter Herring Gulls in the same pond. The patterned upper parts and nearly all dark bill indicated that the bird was in first winter plumage.

size: It appeared smaller than a nearby adult Herring Gull and larger than the numerous Ring-billed Gulls surrounding it. There was never a good side by side direct comparison with the Herring Gull.

wings, back: The back, mantle, tertials, and coverts were very pale but had the patterned look of Thayer's Gull. The primaries were distinctly paler than the rest of the wing and the upperparts. The primaries were of a very uniform color although there appeared to possibly be slightly paler crescents on the tips. These crescents were not obvious. Indeed I had trouble counting the primary feathers that extended past the tail because the primaries blended together. I believe that the end of P7 was even with the tip of the tail but am not sure. In flight I could not tell much detail but was not able to see any secondary bars.

Head and neck: The face had a darker dish shaped area that was somewhat reminiscent of Northern Harrier. The head shape was round and delicate, much like Thayer's Gull. The color was about the same as the mantle although more uniform rather than patterned. The eyes were dark.

tail: The undertail coverts were banded with narrow, slightly dark bands. Glimpses of the upper tail during preening and the short flights did not indicate any bar.

Bill: The bill was all dark except that sometimes the base appeared to be fleshy colored. The bill was not as large as Herring Gull.

Legs and feet: light pink.

DWQ 1/10/99

Describe the bird's song and call if heard: it was silent

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: a small, partially iced over pond.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

Thayer's Gull: This bird was probably too pale to be Thayer's Gull although that mark is quite variable. This bird had light pink legs rather than the darker pink of Thayer's Gull. Probably the best differentiation with Thayer's was the relative paleness of the primaries, which were paler than the rest of the upperparts, rather than darker as in Thayer's Gull.

Glaucous Gull: This bird had an all dark or nearly all dark bill rather than the distinctly dark-tipped bill of first winter Glaucous Gull. The head shape was too round and delicate for Glaucous Gull. Surely Glaucous would have appeared to be obviously larger than this bird did.

Glaucous-winged Gull: This bird was paler than Glaucous-winged Gulls I have seen (although that is rather subjective and it has been some time since I have seen Glaucous-winged Gull). P. J. Grant's illustrations in Gulls a guide to identification, show Glaucous-winged as darker than this bird and less patterned on the upper parts. Glaucous-winged Gull can have primaries that are slightly paler than the rest of the upper parts but it would not be as obviously paler as on this bird. The bill of Glaucous-winged would appear bulkier and the head would not have the round delicate look of this bird's head. Also, Glaucous-winged should not appear smaller than Herring Gull.

Glaucous X Herring Gull: Lack of a tail band, lack of a secondary bar, no blackish area around the eye (the dark on the face was not limited to just the eye) or ear spot, and the fact that the primaries are pale all indicate that this bird is not a Glaucous X Herring hybrid. Also the size and less bulky shape of this bird should eliminate this hybrid.

Glaucous-winged X various: All of these hybrids would appear larger and bulkier than the bird we observed. Also they would not be as pale or show the paler primaries of this bird.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: I have never seen an Iceland Gull before. I have identified perhaps 15 or 20 Thayer's Gulls and have spent considerable time studying first winter Herring Gulls and comparing them to Thayer's Gull so I am pretty familiar with the head and bill shape differences between Thayer's Gull and Herring Gull. I have seen many Glaucous-winged Gulls during about 5 years of birding on the Central California coast.

List books if they helped in your identification: Gulls an identification guide, second edition, by P. J. Grant, Advanced Birding by Kenn Kaufman.

This report was written from notes taken during x, or after observation or from memory . I used a microcassette recorder to record my observations while I was observing the bird. I transcribed the tape to written notes and wrote this from the written notes on 1/9/99 and 1/10/99.

Reporting observer:

David W. Quesenberry

Signature: David W Quesenberry 1/10/99

Address:

6254 S. Elmira Cir

Englewood, CO 80111

1999-171

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

ICELAND GULL
Larus glaucoides

Recd 1/20/00 wpl

Location: Valco Ponds and Pueblo Reservoir; Pueblo; Pueblo County, Colorado

Date: January 9-10, 1999

Setting:

This bird was found by Brandon Percival and a group of about 6 on the morning of the 9th. It was first pointed out by Ric Olson. About 40 birders in all observed it during its two day stay and it was photographed and videotaped (I hear). Other observers included Tony Leukering, John Vanderpoel, Bob Dickson, Dick Schottler, Duane Nelson and Karleen Schofield. Tony Leukering found and photographed the bird on the 9th as it fed at the Pueblo dump and landfill a couple of miles away from Valco ponds. I heard about the bird and re-found it on Valco Pond #3 about 2:30 p.m. that afternoon. I was alone. I observed it with my Kowa TSN40 scope, in good sun for about 35 minutes. It lounged, standing on the edge of the ice with about 100 other gulls, including Thayer's, Herring and Ring-billed. I also saw it in flight for about 2 minutes. That afternoon, before dusk, four of us located the bird roosting/floating far out of Pueblo Reservoir, but it was too far to see well.

On the morning of the 10th, there were approximately 30 birders present when we re-found the bird on Valco Pond #1 at about 8:00 a.m. We all observed it in (many) scopes as it stood with 100s of other mixed gulls (same mix as before). It gave excellent views from about 30-100 yards distance. The bird flew off after 30 minutes of viewing time. We again re-found it there about 10:15 a.m. and we observed it for another 15 minutes. During the viewing all observers got excellent scope views of the perched bird and binocular views of the flying bird. Conditions were excellent (sunny and not windy).

Description:

It was a first basic bird. Overall it was a medium-large Larus with a noticeably small bill (less than half the length of the head); proportionately small, rounded head; and long wings (four primary tips projected beyond the tip of the tail in the standing bird). The legs were pink and the eye dark. The bill was dark at the tip, vaguely pink-based and quite petite. Structurally, compared to Herring Gulls present it was: about 20% smaller in size; shorter-legged; the bill was smaller and the head rounder. It was overall light tan, coarsely but evenly speckled. The speckling was coarsest on the wing coverts. In the standing bird the primaries were white and were the lightest part of the bird. The tertials had fine internal vermiculations and were broadly fringed with white. The head and undersides were pale tan, finely and evenly marked and slightly paler than the back.

In flight, the bird was light above and evenly colored. The primaries were very light, whitish and translucent from underneath. The tail was the same color as the rest of the bird and vaguely and finely barred. There was no dark secondary bar. The underwing was remarkably white with white windows.

(It looked very similar to photo #423 in Grant, 2nd ed. Gulls: A Guide to Identification).

Similar Species:

Other medium-large Larus sp. This bird was too large and pale to be Ring-billed, California or other smaller gulls. It was too small and structurally dissimilar to large-billed Glaucous and Glaucous-winged gulls. Of Larus sp. it was most similar to Herring and Thayer's. (see comments in description about Herring). Specifically the combination of round head and small two-toned bill, with very long pure white primaries and primary projection, tertials with fine internal vermiculations and lack of a secondary bar rule out Thayer's Gull

Experience with Species:

I have experience with nearly all North American gulls. This is only my second experience with Iceland Gull. I saw a couple in this plumage in the early 90s in Duluth, Minnesota.

This report is prepared from notes made during and immediately after observation.

Mark Janos
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