

#1983-29 ufo

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Lat/long _____ Record type _____ Serial No. 83-049
 Habitat _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Glaucous GullScientific Name Larus hyperboreusObs. date Dec. 18, 83 Time(s) 2: - 3:30 p.m.Duration of obs. 90 minutesDistance from bird 50m best; 100m farthestLight conditions front-lit; unobstructedOptical equip. Nikon 9 X 35; Spacemaster 20-45XPhoto equip. Pentax MX, 210 zoomNotes made at time of sighting XDate report prepared
12/19/83

Notes made later from memory _____

Enter number of birds in each category.

Total number observed. _____

GENDER(S)

Males _____

Females _____

♀ or Imms _____

Unknowns X

AGES(S)

Adults X

Juv/Imms _____

2/3 yr birds _____

Unknowns _____

Weather at time of this observation.

overcast, about 25 degrees F., mild
NW (?) wind

Prior weather and number of days since change

about same on Sat the 17th on Wasatch
front.Locality Bear Lake, Utah at Laketown;
just W of cafe and servicestation where
stream crosses under highway 89, on
pond, n. side of road.

PLUMAGE(S)

Breeding _____

Eclipse _____

Winter X

Other _____

Transition _____

Dark phase _____

Light ph. _____

PHOTO(S)

Available X

Enclosed _____

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.
 Size compared to Ring-billed Gulls beside this bird was approx. $1\frac{1}{2}$ times; bird bulky, chesty in flight. HEAD: large, somewhat rounded (as opposed to the flat-headed illustration in Nat. Geo. guide), although this could have been due to feather fluffing. Head color white with very light gray streaking over crown and through nape. Bill yellow, red spot on lower mandible. Eye yellow. Chin, throat, belly, flanks white. Mantle light gray in contrast to Ring-bills and to the other gull species (Herring or California) present. Wings (in flight and at rest) gray to near tips of primaries, but white to the extent of tips. NO light gray spotting or any dark marks of any kind on wing tips or trailing edges. At rest, wing tips visible were translucent, and again no dark spotting or interruption of whiteness at tips of primaries. Wings tips at rest extended beyond tail, but not noticeably far. Legs pink, not brightly so. In flight, mixing with other gull species, gull was broad-winged and bulky in contrast; slow wing beats compared to Ring-bills. In flight, even at great distance, bird was easily distinguishable from other gulls by size and ghostly appearance.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

Not a good close shot of mandible spot or of iris color. Distance was a factor, since the bird flushed quickly from my closest vantage point.

Variations from expected field marks.

Head shape, rounder than appears in field guide

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Iceland Gull: No spotting or interruption of white on wing-tips; wings not narrow; wing beats not rapid.

Thayer's Gull: No spotting or interruptions of white on wing-tips; eye color.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

First perching on ice; then standing on ice; then resting bill under wing; then walking; then stretching; flushed and flew with other gull species; then roosting on snow-covered field with other gull species. Other species on pond: Ring-billed Gull, (California or Herring Gull), Gadwall, Common Goldeneye, Mallard.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Open water, slight current; Bear Lake (also open at time) very close by; adjacent habitats also included farm lots (cattle in corrals), snow-covered fields.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

NONE

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

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Signature

Craig Kesselheim

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

Studied a colony of breeding seabirds that included Glaucous Gull near Nome, AK in 1977. Saw bird in Yukon Territory, summer 1983.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature