UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Species: Glaucous Gull   Larus hyberboreus   **Date:** January 11,1985
(several times after)
Number: 1   **Age:** First Winter   **Sex:** ?

Locality (exact address or other specific information to describe location,
such as x miles north of x intersection):
Salt Lake Landfill

County: Salt Lake   **City:** West Valley City **Elevation:**

Time: Several   **Length of time observed:** 1 hour+

Habitat: Dump

Distance to bird: variable   **Light conditions:** ok

Optical equipment: binoculars, scope

Observer: Ella Sorensen

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

DESCRIPTION. Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including
size, shape, plumage pattern color, and any unique features.

A large gull with flashy white primaries, pink legs, dark eye
pinkish bill with a very defined dark tip.

Overall the gull was really light. The breast was mottled with
light tan and white and there was slight patterning on the wing
coverts. The bill was large and typical of a Glaucous Gull.

Field notes taken at the time of sighting.

Voice and/or call notes:

Behavior:

Describe what specific feature(s) you saw and/or heard that caused you to come to your conclusions:

What similar species might it have been, and how were these eliminated?
  Iceland Gull was ruled out because this gull was larger than the Herring Gulls which were nearby, the bill was larger than expected on an Iceland gull and the head less rounded.
  Albino or leucism was ruled out because the bird had typical size, shape

What experience have you had with this and similar species?

  and plumage of a typical Glaucous Gull.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Significance of record in the area and/or the state:

Additional material (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available):

Signature:

Address: 3868 Marsha Drive
          West Valley City, Utah 84120

Date prepared: February 17, 1985 from notes made at the time of the observation.