

1-1998

March 29, 1998

To Ella Sorensen ( President Utah Ornithological Society)

Subject: Rare bird sighting

Common Name: Iceland Gull

Scientific Name: Larus Cloucoides

Time: 1 to 2 PM

Age of bird: First year immature

Observed At: Bear River NWR (See Enclosure)

Distance to Bird: 50 Feet to 150 Yards.

Optics: 15 to 60 celestron Scope, 10x40 Zeiss Binocs

Weather: Overcast strong north wind

Bird Discretion: This gull was a pale mottled brown, The primary wing feathers were unmarked and a little lighter than the rest of the bird, the tail was marked but no darker than the rest of the body, the bill was dark over the entire length but darkest near the tip and fading to a lighter gray near the head, the legs were pink and the eye dark.

I saw the gull twice. The first time for about three minutes after which I identifies it as a first year glaucous because it was a perfect match except for the bill for an immature glaucous pictured on page 140 of " The Golden Guide to Birds of North America". However the bill color bothered me and I stayed in the area and kept looking in my books and found a pitcher of an immature Iceland Gull on page 153 of the "National Geographic Field Guide" that seemed to match my gull. After about 30 minutes the bird came back and landed about 50 feet from me and I was able to make what I consider to be a Positive ID. Of all of the other possibilities the immature were ether much darker or had darker primaries than the rest of the bird. I looked at the check lists for birds for Bear River and for Utah and the Iceland Gull is not on them but because of the bill I think my identification is right unless some one can show me that the glaucous immature can also have an all dark bill instead of a bill with a black tip and an almost white base.

Sincerely



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