

## UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

### VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

COMMON NAME: Glaucous-winged Gull                      SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Larus glaucescens*

DATE: 11/12/00                      TIME: 3:30 - 4:00 pm                      LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 30 minutes

NUMBER: 1                      AGE: Juvenile / <sup>ad</sup> / winter                      SEX:

LOCATION: Farmington Bay WMA

COUNTY: Davis                      LAT/LONG:                      ELEVATION:

DISTANCE TO BIRD: 30 meters

WEATHER: cloudy, light snow falling

LIGHT CONDITIONS: overcast, dim

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:

This was a large, bulky gull with a large flat forehead. A very large all black bill with a distinctive sharp gonysoidal angle. Uniform All Brown body plumage, including primaries and tail ~~with~~ which were the same brown color as the rest of the body plumage. The gull had a uniform pattern of pale markings or fringes running across the lesser and median wing coverts. Pale spots were throughout the scapulars. Pale fringes visible on tops of primaries. Pink legs, dark eye

Scandinavian Species cont. Glaucous-winged-Western Hybrid: This is a possibility. Even though this is a darker brown gull than other gulls glaucous-winged I have seen (there is variability in color among Juvenile / <sup>ad</sup> winter birds) it is still uniform in color, shape and specific characteristics of a Glaucous-winged gull. A hybrid would probably show somewhat darker wingtips than the rest of the body plumage, with a less flat forehead and generally have more integration of characteristics of the 2 hybridized species. This is assuming of course that both parents were pure birds of their respective species!

Through my literature search it became apparent that hybridization of Glaucous-winged gulls with Western Herring and even Glaucous gulls is common. In fact some populations in Washington are mostly hybrids and backcrosses with very few pure birds (Glaucous-winged/Western). While the gull described and photographed fits very closely the description of glaucous-winged gull it may in fact not be a pure bird because of hybridization and/or backcrossing from the distant past.

SONG OR CALL AND METHOD OF DELIVERY: None.

BEHAVIOR: Sitting still at the edge of water impoundment.

HABITAT: Farmington Bay, open water, wetlands

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED:

Glaucous gull: 1st winter. 2-tined bill - pale base with black tip. Overall body plumage paler (almost white?) with coarser & more irregular pattern of markings on scapulars. paler primaries contrast with the rest of the body plumage.  
Herring gull: 1st winter. Smaller bill, smaller more rounded head. Primaries darker than mantle, dark band on tail, darker than rest of the upper body plumage.  
Herring gull: 1st winter. Dark brown primaries and secondaries contrast with rest of body plumage, dark tail, dark barred rump.


PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES: I have seen several apparent Glaucous-winged gulls on the Pacific coast and a few in Utah the past several years.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

P. J. Grant. Gulls a guide to identification. second edition  
The Sibley guide to birds.

DESCRIPTION FROM: NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING , NOTES MADE LATER \_\_\_\_\_, FROM MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_

OBSERVER: Terry Sadler

SIGNATURE: 

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OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

DATE PREPARED: 12/27/00

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO , DRAWING \_\_\_\_\_, TAPE \_\_\_\_\_, OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN THIS FORM TO: UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
1581 NORTH 1040 WEST  
OREM, UT 84057

OR EMAIL TO: matt@utahbirds.org

single photo (darker gull)