

UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

COMMON NAME: Glaucous-winged Gull SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Larus Glaucescens*
 DATE: 11-18-2000 TIME: 9:00 9:50 AM LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 30 minutes
 NUMBER: 1 AGE: 1st winter SEX: ?
 LOCATION: Antelope Island Causeway
 COUNTY: Davis LATILONG: ELEVATION:
 DISTANCE TO BIRD: 30 meter
 WEATHER: clear & sunny
 LIGHT CONDITIONS: Bright

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:

A large gull (larger than nearby ~~calif~~ calif gulls) with a large head & flat sloping forehead. large all black bill with a distinctive sharp gonysdeal angle on lower bill. Uniform pale brown body plumage including the tail and primaries which were the same uniform pale brown color as the mantle and the rest of the body plumage. A uniform pattern of pale markings or fringes ran across the lesser and median wing coverts. pale fringes on the tips of the primaries. pink legs, dark eye.

Similar Species cont:

Glaucous-winged - Western Hybrid. This is a possibility. A 50/50 hybrid would probably show somewhat darker primary tips than the rest of the body plumage, less flat head, less pronounced bill shape a generally more integration of characteristics of the 2 hybridized species. As mentioned in my narrative on the other apparent Glaucous-winged gull ~~varieties~~, hybridization is common among Glaucous-winged and other gulls including Western, Herring and Glaucous. The gull described fits the overall characteristics of a 1st winter Glaucous-winged gull but may in fact contain genes of one of those other species from hybridization and ~~other~~ backcross from the distant past.

SONG OR CALL AND METHOD OF DELIVERY: None

BEHAVIOR: Feeding on Brine Flies at the water's edge of The Great Salt Lake

HABITAT: Sandy beach at water's edge of Antelope Island causeway

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED:

Glaucopteryx gull: 1st winter - 2 toned bill - pale base with black tip; overall body plumage pale with coarser & more irregular pattern of markings on scapulars & wing coverts. paler primaries that contrast with upper body plumage.
Hager's gull 1st winter. Smaller bill, smaller more rounded head; Primaries darker than upper body plumage. dark band on tail.
Herring gull: 1st winter. Dark brown primaries and secondaries which contrast with rest of body plumage, dark banded 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 X, 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 3 photos

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO X, DRAWING _____, TAPE _____, OTHER _____

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

OR EMAIL TO: matt@utahbirds.org