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6-1989

## An Iceland Gull in Cedar County, Nebraska

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Brogie, Mark A. and Brogie, Ed M., "An Iceland Gull in Cedar County, Nebraska" (1989). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 144.

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#### AN ICELAND GULL IN CEDAR COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Both Johnsgard (1986) and Bray et al. (1986) list the Iceland gull (*Larus glaucoides*) as accidental; the only record for Nebraska being a first-year male bird shot from a flock of crows by a boy at Dorchester, Saline Co., on 15 January 1907. The specimen was supposedly preserved, but now cannot be located with certainty. The following provides the second record for this species for Nebraska.

On 4 December 1988 we observed a first winter Iceland Gull at the Gavin's Point tailwaters, Cedar Co., Nebraska. The bird was first seen flying from a small sandbar and was in the company of several Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). It flew upstream to the area where the water is released from the power plant, where it spent approximately 15 minutes. During this time it flew past us several times at a distance of less than 25 yards, and we were able to get several photos of the bird.

The bird appeared several inches larger than the Ring-billed Gulls, and exhibited a whitish body with brown fleckings, translucent primaries, all dark brownish-black bill, dark eye, and flesh-colored feet. In flight, the forewings appeared noticeably darker than that of the whitish primaries. From above, the back part of the tail was more brownish than the whitish colored rump patch;



Photos: Ed M. Brogie/Mark A. Brogie

however the terminal edge of the tail was bordered with white. The mantle appeared a dirty white, becoming increasingly whiter toward the wing tips.

The head of this gull was noticeably more rounded and was in smaller proportion to the body than that of a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) or Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*); species which were also present that day. The bill was also noticeably less robust than the bill of a Herring or Glaucous Gull.

This gull was seen by several observers in subsequent days. As far as we know, it was last observed by Mark and Ellen Brogie on 13 December. On this date, at approximately 4:45 PM, it was found sitting on the ice on the southwest side of Lake Yankton. It was observed for about 20 minutes, at which time it flew west over Lewis and Clark Lake and disappeared. Identifiable photographs are in possession the authors and others have been sent to the Nebraska Records committee.

Literature cited

Bray, T. E., B. K. Padelford, W. R. Silcock, 1986. *The Birds of Nebraska - A Critically Evaluated List*. Published by the authors, Omaha, Nebraska, 111 pp.

Johnsgard, P. A. 1986. *A Revised List of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States*. Occ. Pap. NOU No. 6, 170 pp.

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