

Tokyo on 23 Aug 1985. The specimen is kept at the Kanagawa Prefectural Museum, Yokohama.

1. Oi Bird Park, 1 Tokai, Ota-ku, Tokyo 143.

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1985年10月15日受理

〒143 大田区東海1丁目地先 東京港野鳥公園管理事務所。

## FIRST RECORD OF ICELAND GULL *LARUS GLAUCOIDES* FROM JAPAN

Per Alström<sup>1</sup> and Urban Olsson<sup>2</sup>

On November 14 1984 when driving near Rausu on the Shiretoko peninsula, Hokkaido, Olsson caught a glimpse of a pale gull flying along the shore. The bird looked like an Iceland Gull. The pale gull was flying away from us. Fortunately it tured and came back towards us and landed on the water in a flock of Slaty-backed Gulls *Larus schistisagus*, a few adult Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* and a few first winter Glaucous-winged Gulls *Larus glaucescens*. After a while the flock came ashore and stood on the beach. The bird could be seen well and was safely identified as a first winter Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*. The Iceland Gull was noticeably tamer than all of other gulls in the flock and was the last one to take off when approached and the first one to return to the beach after being scared off. After having watched the bird for about one hour we left.

### Description

The Iceland Gull was noticeably smaller than the other birds in the flock. The bill was comparatively short and fine, the crown fairly rounded and the wings long, reaching well beyond the tip of the tail-proportionately more so than on any of the other species present.

The bill was blackish with the basal half slightly paler brownish. The head was fairly uniformly pale grey-brown with not very well-marked paler crescents below and above the eye, the latter being least conspicuous. The underparts were slightly darker, more or less uniformly grey-brown to the ventral area and undertail-coverts which were paler and coarsely barred. The upperparts were paler than the underparts with a delicate pattern of dark chevrons on the scapulars and wing-coverts. The tertials subterminal speckling. The rump and uppertail-coverts were rather coarsely barred.

The remige were even paler with minute dark subterminal spots on at least some of the primaries. The rectrices were fairly uniformly pale greyish-brown-more uniform than is

usually the case in this species - with some speckling near the tips on the outer feathers. The legs and feet were flesh-coloured and the iris was blackish.

The bird was aged as a first year bird on the dark bill, dark iris, regular pattern on scapulars and wing-coverts and pointed primaries.

#### Identification

The plumage of young birds are much paler than all other young gulls apart from Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* and Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*. The plumage is practically identical to that of Glaucous Gull. It can, however, be told from that species on the usually considerably smaller size, proportionately longer wings and, most important, much darker bill. The bill of juv/first winter Glaucous Gull is flesh-coloured with a sharply demarkated black tip, whereas the bill of juv /first winter



Fig. 1. First winter of *L. glaucoideus* (Hokkaido 1984. 11. 10. Phot. by Urban Olsson).

Iceland Gull is darker at the base, often looking all dark at a distance. Sometimes the basal half of the bill of first winter Iceland Gull is paler flesh-coloured, but the demarcation-line between the paler base and the dark tip is usually not as clear-cut as on Glaucous Gull. The flesh-colour is also usually tinged more greyish on Iceland Gull.

Juv /first winter Glaucous-winged Gulls are bigger and heavier with a larger bill and proportionately shorter wings than Iceland Gulls. The bill is normally all black. It also

looks more uniformly patterned than first year Iceland Gulls with a less contrasting pattern on the scapulars and wing-coverts. The flight-feathers are darker than on Iceland Gull. The primaries are diffusely darker at the tips and the tail-feathers are normally uniformly grey-brown without any mottling.

First winter Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri* of North America resembles Iceland Gull in general structure and size, but has even darker flight-feathers than first winter Glaucous-winged Gull.

Leucistic and albinistic individuals of other species, for example Slaty-backed Gulls, can be confused with Iceland Gulls. Apart from structural differences, those abnormally coloured birds never show the neat delicate pattern on scapulars and coverts in combination with pale flight-feathers. Most leucistic albinistic individuals of other species show traces of their normal colourpatterns, such as darker secondaries and or tail-feathers. Others are all white.

#### Range

The Iceland Gull breeds in southern Greenland (n nominate subspecies) and southern Baffin Island and in extreme northwestern Québec in Canada (subspecies *kumlieni*). The nominate subspecies winters mainly in Europe and *kumlieni* on the east coast of North America.

Apparently young birds of the two subspecies are very similar, so it is unfortunately not possible to be sure of to which subspecies the bird in Hokkaido belonged.

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#### アイスランドカモメ *Larus glaucooides* の日本初記録

ペール・アルストレン, ウルバン・オルソン

1984年11月14日, 知床半の羅臼町の海岸で, オオセグロカモメ, セグロカモメ, ワシカモメの群れの中に混って休憩するアイスランドカモメを観察し撮影した。同種は小型で口ばしが細く, 頭部が丸味をおび, 風切り羽が尾の先端を超えるという点で, 他種と区別される。