

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

The Glaucous Gull is the northernmost of the large gulls and only a rare winter visitor as far south as San Diego County. It is reported here at a rate of about one per year.

Winter: Most records of the Glaucous Gull in San Diego County are coastal, ranging from a few miles offshore to 9 miles inland at Miramar Lake (N10; 25 January 1992, T. L. Williams, AB 46:315, 1992). The Otay dump (U12) is the site with the most records, but gulls are now excluded there. The species is typically found with other gulls, but only twice have as many as two Glaucous Gulls been found together in San Diego County—at the Otay dump. During the atlas period from 1997 to 2002 six were noted, at Oceanside (H5) 4 May 1997 (R. T. Patton, FN 51:928, 1997), Quivira Basin, Mission Bay (R7), 4 February 2002 (D. K. Adams, NAB 56:224, 2002), San Diego Bay near Seaport Village (S9) 19 December 1998 (R. and S. L. Breisch, NAB 53:209, 1999), and Imperial Beach (V10) 13–15 March 1998 (P. A. Ginsburg, FN 52:257, 1998), 4 March 2000 (T. R. Clawson, NAB 54:221, 2000), and 4–11 March 2001 (H. L. Young, NAB 55:228, 2001).

Migration: Occurrences of the Glaucous Gull in San Diego County are concentrated late in the winter, from late January to mid March. Extreme dates are 22 November



Photo by Richard E. Webster

(1988, off San Diego, D. W. Povey, AB 43:168, 1989) and 31 March (1968, Otay dump, AFN 22:478, 1968), except for three stragglers in May: 4 May 1997 (cited above), 5 May 1994 (Cardiff, L7, M. B. Stowe, NASFN 48:341, 1994), and 20 May 1973 (Point Loma, S7, AFN 27:820, 1973).

Taxonomy: The only specimen for San Diego County, from a former dump on the Silver Strand (T9) 22 January 1966 (SDNHM 36019), is *L. h. barrovianus* Ridgway, 1886. Banks (1986a) identified all Glaucous Gulls from the Pacific coast of North America as this relatively dark, small-billed subspecies.