

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Identification of the Iceland Gull far from its normal range in the North Atlantic is fraught with uncertainty, because of extensive intergradation with Thayer's Gull. Indeed, evidence suggests these two are at best subspecies (Snell 2002). The California Bird Records Committee has accepted just two identifications of the Iceland Gull from California, one from San Diego County.

Winter: San Diego County's sole Iceland Gull was a first-winter bird photographed at the Otay dump (U12) 17–25 January 1986 (D. Delaney, Erickson and Hamilton 2001).

Taxonomy: See Snell (2002) for an analysis of variation in the Iceland and Thayer's Gulls. With its primaries almost uniformly white, the bird at the Otay dump resembled nominate *L. g. glaucoides* Meyer, 1822, which breeds mainly in Greenland, more than *L. g. kumlieni* Brewster, 1883, the intermediate between *glaucoides* and *thayeri* that breeds in the southeastern Canadian Arctic.