

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Slaty-backed Gull 2. Number: 1

3. Location St. Louis - Mississippi River

4. Date: 2 Jan. 1984 5. Time Bird seen: 10:15 - ~~10~~ AM to 1:15 PM.

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Size - Close to Herring Gull size - Mantle - Very dark - Legs - Very pink - much brighter than Herring - Bill - larger in proportion to head size - color yellow - bright red spot - Light streaking on white head - eye yellow head seemed flatter in comparison to Herring - different shape This Bird appeared bulkier - white Band of Primaries evident when observed in flight and when wing was stretched out during preening

7. Description of voice, if heard: - Not heard

8. Description of behavior: Mixed in with several hundred Herring - 2 Glaucous - 2 Thayers - seemingly no competition

9. Habitat - general: Mississippi River
specific: Ice Bar in shallow area of River

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
No other Gull had mantle or markings of this Bird

11. Distance (how measured)? 100 yards - ? Varied as Gull moved around 12. Optical equipment: Questar

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Good - Sun Behind as day progressed

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: None - had read about Gull in Harrison when I heard the bird was in the area - Also National Geographic Book

15. Other observers: Many -

16. Did the others agree with your identification? - YES

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Birders from St. Louis

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: National Geographic - Birds of Alaska - Master Bird Finder Sea birds - Harrison

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 day

Louise Augustin
Signature

Address: 

Date: 3 January 1983

City, State: 