

## GLAUCOUS GULL AT ROSETOWN, SASKATCHEWAN

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While driving out of Rosetown, Saskatchewan, at about noon on April 27, 1978, we observed a white gull standing in a flooded area of a field some 50 meters south of Highway #7 at the western city limits, near what we judged to be the municipal dump. The gull was very large, dwarfing the Ring-billed Gulls present. With binoculars and in good light we could see no black or grey markings on the bird whether standing or flying and viewed from above and below. We observed it for about 10 minutes before it flew south to the dump. Reference to field guides at the time and since have lead us to the conclusion that this was a Glaucous Gull, most probably a 2nd- or 3rd-year bird.<sup>1 2 3</sup>

Glaucous Gulls have been reported

in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba but their occurrence on the prairies is relatively rare. Their normal habitat is marine and those individuals seen on the prairies are considered wanderers.<sup>4</sup>

EDITOR'S NOTE: Glaucous Gulls were also reported on the river in Saskatoon on 9 days between April 1 and 10, 1978: a single 2nd-winter-plumaged bird by J. B. Gollop and B. C. Godwin; and from May 9-14: one 2nd-winter bird and up to six 1st-winter-plumaged birds by M. A. Galloway. These Rosetown and Saskatoon reports constitute the 7th, 8th and 9th records for the province.

<sup>1</sup>PETERSON, R. T. 1961. A field guide to western birds. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 366 pp.

<sup>2</sup>POUGH, R. H. 1951. Audubon water bird guide. Doubleday and Co., Inc. Garden City. 352 pp.

<sup>3</sup>ROBBINS, C. S., B. BRUUN, H. S. ZIM, and A. SINGER. 1966. Birds of North America. Golden Press, New York. 340 pp.

<sup>4</sup>SALT, W. R., and J. R. SALT. 1976. The birds of Alberta. Hurtig Publishers, Edmonton. 498 pp.



*Glaucous gull at Demarcation Bay, NWT*

M. A. Gollop