

# A GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL SEEN IN REGINA

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The morning of 16 April 1993 was sunny at about 9 a.m. when I did some bird-watching at the Display Ponds. These are located east of the Centre of the Arts, Regina, across Lakeshore Drive in that part of Wascana Park between Wascana Parkway on the west and Highway No. 1 by-pass on the east.

There was the usual collection of Ring-billed Gulls and Canada Geese. I then noticed that the geese were staring at something far overhead. I had observed this habit before and each time it turned out to be a high-flying raptor. This time I discovered it to be a bird at such a height that I could not determine the kind. As I watched, it came lower until I could see that it was a gull. I had an excellent view as it flew quite low over the marsh and at times at quite close range. Description is as follows: dark tail, light rump, uniform gray-brown mantle, wings and head, gray bill with black tip, no black wing-tips, pale whitish underwing.

I remembered that Frank Brazier had a book which showed photographs of gulls in colour in various plumages so I telephoned him and asked him to bring it the next morning to our regular coffee session, which he did. I went through the gull section and identified my bird as a Glaucous-winged Gull in second winter plumage; its photograph matched exactly the gull I saw. I had seen this species some years ago in Victoria, B.C., but not in this plumage.

The book is called *Seabirds of the World: a Photographic Guide* by Peter Harrison (1987. Christopher Helm, London). One previous record is listed in my copy of *Field Checklist of Saskatchewan Birds*, 7th Edition, October 1990, compiled by Robert Kreba, Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

I wish to thank Frank Brazier for the use of his book and for helpful suggestions about the text of this article.



As the cost of timber for traditional types of fences became almost prohibitive, resort was made to sod fences, smooth wire, and Osage-orange hedges, but the problem of fences on the prairies remained essentially unsolved until the invention of barbed wire in 1874 — a simple thing, but one of great significance. *E.E. Edwards, 1948. Grass: the Yearbook of Agriculture. Washington.*