

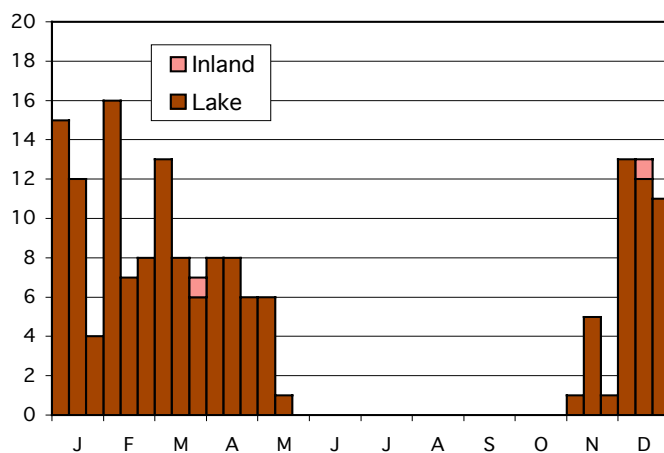
Iceland Gull

Larus glaucooides

Historical Information

First Published Record: Both Brayton (1879) and Butler (1898) acknowledged the presence of Iceland Gulls, but provided no records. The earliest published report involved a bird observed by Fred Baumgartner in Johnson County on 2 April 1927 (Mumford files).

Butler (1898) deemed this gull an occasional winter visitor in the north. With reservations Mumford and Keller (1975) included the Iceland Gull on their annotated state list. Both Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) considered it casual in the north and accidental elsewhere.



Status

Physical Evidence: There are no known specimens (S.F. Jackson unpublished list), but a number of identifiable photographs exist (Keller 1994 lists two published pictures).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	7	7	n	8
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	10	n	n	n
Entire State	7	7	n	8



Adult Iceland Gull, with Herring Gulls, on the beach at Michigan City Harbor 28 November 2001. This individual has a dark iris, pale mantle, and charcoal-colored primaries. Photo by K.J. Brock

Current Status

The Iceland Gull is Rare (7) in winter and spring along the shores of Lake Michigan.

Occurrence

Plumages of the Iceland Gulls appearing on Lake Michigan are of the "Kumlien's type," in which the adults rarely, if ever, show entirely white primaries. A continuum of plumages are observed that range from typical

“Kumlien’s” to individuals that grade into Thayer’s Gull plumages. Indeed, many (perhaps most) of the Iceland Gulls recorded on the Indiana lakefront show the characteristics of intergrades (hybrids?) with Thayer’s Gull.

Plumage

As shown in the plumages table, the most common age groups are juvenile/first-year and adult. Note that by late spring bleached Thayer’s Gulls, especially immature birds, often become very similar in plumage to Iceland Gulls.

This factor may contribute to the relatively large number of Iceland Gull reports in April and May (compare Iceland and Thayer’s Gull histograms).

Percent of Aged Plumages				
Adult	Win.	2nd-year	1st-year or juv.	Imm
40%	7%	11%	41%	1%

Inland Records

Indiana has but three Iceland Gull reports away from Lake Michigan. Fred Baumgartner reported the first bird along with nine Herring Gulls on the White River in Johnson County 2 April 1927 (Mumford files). Indiana’s second Iceland Gull was an immature identified by David Styer, David Russell, and Worth Randle at the Great Miami Oxbow, Dearborn County, on 29 March 1978 (Mumford files). Although no details of this bird were found, Mumford noted that the description sounded fine and that the bird had a dark bill. The most recent report came from Lake Lemon, Brown County, where J.D. and Susan Hengeveld identified and photographed a first-year bird 16 December 2002 (IN-BIRD).

Iceland Gull Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
4	07-Jan-1997	Lakefront	J.J. McCoy	KJB
3	25-Feb-1995	Lakefront	S.R. Bagby	KJB
3	08-Feb-1997	LaPorte Dump	J.K. Cassady	KJB
3	01-May-1997	Mich. City Harb.	K.J. Brock	KJB
3	16-Mar-2002	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB
Two have been recorded on twenty-one occasions.				

Migration Envelopes						
Entire State						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Winter	5-Nov-1989	20-Nov	Win. Res.	24-Apr	12-May-1999	155

References Cited

Brayton, A.W. (1879) A Catalogue of the Birds of Indiana, *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society*, pp. 144-146.

Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

IN-BIRD, a Listserve dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-l.html>

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Keller, T.C. (1994) Index of Published Photographic Documentation of the Birds of Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 72:119-130.

Mumford files: An extensive accumulation of Indiana bird data on 5x7 file cards compiled by Professor R.E. Mumford of Purdue University, West Lafayette.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1975) An Annotated Check List of Indiana Birds, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 53:28-59.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.