

# Glaucous-winged Gull at Lake Springfield: second Sangamon County record

by H. David Bohlen



On 29 June 2004 as I was checking the north end of Lake Springfield I saw a much larger white-winged gull standing among the Ring-billed Gulls. Seeing that the bill was mostly dark and noting some grayish feathers in the mantle, I knew the gull was not a Glaucous Gull and so took several photographs.

The wing tips were totally white and very worn. In fact, much of the plumage was very worn. Slaty-backed, first summer immediately came to mind - but the wing tips were too white for that species. Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) first summer seemed more appropriate. In fact the bill, small dark eye, and even the wings beyond tail were correct for this species. Also seen were pink legs and a small light tip to the bill. In

*Glaucous-winged Gull at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County. 20 June 2004. Photo by H. David Bohlen.*

flight the gull appeared all grayish-white. That evening I viewed Jon Dunn's video on large gulls and was even more convinced. I subsequently saw this gull again 30 June and 1, 3, 4, 5, and 9 July - although briefly and usually in the evening.

Once at the Beach House, 4 July 2004, I photographed the gull again. Beckie Dyer observed the bird at this time. This is the second Sangamon County record for Glaucous-winged Gull. The previous county record was a first-year bird seen 31 December 1994. Illinois' first record of the Glaucous-winged Gull occurred 28 November 1992 along Chicago's

Little Calumet River and was seen at least until 9 December 1992. See Johnson et al (1995) for photos and a detailed description of this bird.

The Glaucous-winged Gull is a bird of the Pacific coast. Few inland records exist for this species.

## Literature Cited

Johnson, D.B. et al. 1995. First confirmed Illinois record of the Glaucous-winged Gull. *Meadowlark* 4: 47-50.

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