

## Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*



**Folk Name:** (none)

**Status:** Migrant

**Abundance:** Accidental

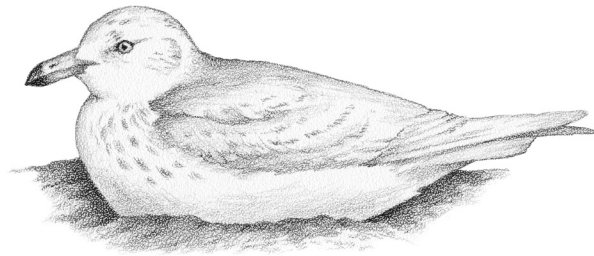
**Habitat:** Open water of lakes or rivers

The Iceland Gull breeds in the Arctic and most spend the winter along the northeastern coast of the United States and Canada. They are rare, but somewhat regular, along the coast of the Carolinas between October and April. They are casual inland.

An immature Iceland Gull was seen and well photographed on Lake Norman on March 9, 2014, by several observers in two boats, one captained by David and Marcia Wright and the other captained by Chris Talkington. This sighting represents the first record of this species for both Mecklenburg County and Iredell County, and is also the first and only report of an Iceland Gull in the Central Carolina region.

This bird wasn't an easy find. The birders located the gull after carefully "sifting" through hundreds of other gulls roosting on the lake. Kevin Metcalf noted these field marks:

Seemed to be second winter plumage. ...Larger than Ring-billed Gulls and smaller than Herring Gull. Washed out whitish gull. Pale gray on back. Primaries whitish with slight brown-gray tint, tail in flight slightly more brown-gray than rump. Bill bi-colored dark at tip, pale base. Eye appeared dark at the distance viewed.



J F M A M J J A S O N D



*Iceland Gull on Lake Norman. (Jim Guyton)*