Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides kumlieni*) on 19 November 2006
Cameron Par., ca 5 mi. W old mouth Mermentau River
Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff

LSUMZ 179733
DLD 8829/B48664

Details of observation: pale-winged gull believed to be an Iceland was observed in beach flock so bird was then collected.

Details of plumage (from specimen): See photos. Generally, upperparts, including wing coverts, pale beige generally lightly spotted or mottled with light brown (darkest around eyes), throat and belly generally off-white, under tail coverts mostly white with some brown bars/flecking, tail whitish-beige mottled with brown forming an indistinct thick band ending with a darker spot and pale brown chevrons on whitish tip; primaries and secondaries grayish-beige-white with light brown inner webs, Underparts pale beige generally lightly spotted or barred with light brown. See also photos taken in the field.

Recorded soft part colors: iris dark brown; orbital ring blackish brown; distal 1/2 maxilla

black, base somewhat paler mottled with dark gray, mandible black paling towards basal 1/2; tarsi and feet grayish flesh, joints brown.

Identification as a Kumlien's Iceland Gull:

Size (see info from BNA online below) generally consistent with Kumlien's Gull: **male**; 1030 grams (moderate fat, stomach empty); wing chord 402 mm; exposed culmen 48.6 mm

Basic 1 aspect. No active body, wing, or tail molt: retaining juvenal wing, tail feathers with some new 1B mantle and head feathers. Molt terminology follows traditional H-P (and Dwight).

A tissue sample was sent (blind) to Sarah A. Sonsthagen for ID. Sonsthagen was studying relationships of white-headed gulls and had obtained samples from breeding populations. This sample was not part of her project and sent only for ID. Her project in part was to determine molecular markers for forensic analysis of air strike species.

Ecol Evol. 2012 Jun;2(6):Hybridization among Arctic white-headed gulls (Larus spp.) obscures the genetic legacy of the Pleistocene. See 2013 LBRC Meeting Drop Box gull file.

Her analysis of this individual was not clear cut with a strange allelic pattern (*smithsonianus*, but also *californicus* and *fuscus*). She said that this individual has a lot of common alleles with a few rare ones for Thayer's and Glaucous gulls that likely muddled up the genetic ID." In other words, she was not putting that much faith in the ID returned by the molecules. She showed the attached photos to Joe Jehl who thought the ID was consistent with Kumlien's although suggested that the tail might be too dark

for Kumlien's. So, a mixed response from a gull expert and an unresolved ID by genetics for an individual that is "typical" as currently accepted for this subspecies.

Plumage is consistent with a first basic (cycle) Kumlien's including tail pattern, which is not darker than a typical Kumlien's Iceland Gull. See *Gulls of the Americas*, Fig. 35 A. shows a typical Kumlien's from Newfoundland.

Two photos previous pages are from photos included in the Mystery Gull talk prepared for the LBRC after receiving Sonsthagen's results.

From BNA: culmen 42–45 mm, females and ***48–53 mm, males*** *(Brooks 1937) and 47–57 mm, male thayeri [n = 23+],* ***43–48 mm, male kumlieni [n = 5+]*** *(Howell and Elliott (2001). Among Iceland Gulls wintering in Iceland, culmens of males (n = 63) averaged 3.7% larger than culmens of females (n = 75; Ingolfsson 1969). Considerable overlap between sexes (38–51 mm, males [n = 36]; 36–46 mm, females [n = 12]; Hedgren and Larsson 1973).*

Wintering birds on west coast of North America: wing chord 380–395 mm for females, ***400–430 mm for males*** *(Brooks 1937).*

*Wing length of males wintering in Iceland average 0.2% larger than females. Overlap between sexes (****390–448 mm, males*** *[n = 36]; 373–437 mm, females [n = 22]; Hedgren and Larsson 1973).*

Finlayson Is. and Cambridge Bay (Parmelee et al., 1967): ***males 940–1,100 g*** *(mean = 1,021, n = 5), females 820–900 g (mean = 870, n = 3).*