

Iceland Gull in Florida.—On January 6, 1950, while my wife and I were driving over the Long Key viaduct on the Florida Overseas Highway we noticed that one of the gulls drifting overhead was white-winged. It was about twenty-five feet above us and was sailing along on motionless wings apparently using an updraft caused by the viaduct. It was about the size of a small Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) and its pure white wing tips stood out brilliantly against the deep blue sky. For more than a mile we drove along slowly, staying about



An Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) flying over the Florida Overseas Highway. Photographed on January 6, 1950, by Helen Gere Cruickshank.

fifty feet behind the bird, studying it closely. Four times I drove directly under and beyond it, stopping long enough for my wife to take photographs with her Leica. We identified the bird as an Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*).¹

The Iceland Gull has been reported from Florida only once before. On February 9, 1927, near the town of Crystal River, at the head of Crystal Bay along the west coast in Citrus County (roughly 300 miles northwest of Long Key). O. F. Swed collected a specimen which is now in the Florida State Museum (Howell, 1932. "Florida Bird Life," p. 255). Our seeing the species off extreme southern Florida calls to mind Griscom's statement (1950. *Aud. Field Notes*, 4: 191) that the flight of white-winged gulls in the winter of 1949-1950 was "one of the three heaviest flights in history in the Northeast."—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK. *Highland Hall, Rye, New York*.

¹ *Larus glaucooides* Meyer (1822) appears to be the earliest name for the Iceland Gull. *Larus leucopterus*, a name currently in wide use for the species, was bestowed by Vieillot in 1820, but Vieillot's description did not apply indubitably to any such small white-winged form as the Iceland Gull is known to be, hence the name *leucopterus* is not acceptable (see Mayaud, 1934. *Alauda*, 6: 370-375).—G. M. S.