

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

94-51

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographys, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 ad. winter
3. Locality: Louisiana: Seabrook Bridge Parish: Orleans
4. Date(s) when seen: 12/30/94
5. Times of day when seen: 8:15 - 9:50
6. Reporting observer and address: Phillip Wallace
4515 S. Brier St., N.O., LA 70125
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: Discovered earlier in winter - D. Muth?
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Good light; overcast
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Bushnell 22x Scope
11. Distance to bird: 50-75 yards
12. Duration of observation: 30 minutes +
13. Habitat (general and specific):

On seawall on Lake Pontchartrain

14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Resting, preening. Flew once briefly, returning to seawall
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):

Head - Initially appeared all white. Only when viewed at the closest was very faint brown streaking seen in head.

Dark eye crescent (in front of eye)

Eye - Dark iris; confirmed at closest view. Red orbital ring

Bill - Yellow with red spot on gonys; more massive than adjacent Herring Gulls, but not as massive as some I've seen.

Back, mantle, and wings - Black; in flight wings had a conspicuous white leading edge; especially noticeable and extensive around the alula; Tail - Solid white
Small mirrors on outer primaries.

Legs - Gray to flesh; definitely not yellow or pink.

Size - Larger than adjacent Herring Gulls; chest very bulky in frontal view.

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

Lesser black-backed Gull - size and leg color; upper parts much darker than *graellsii*,
Kelp Gull - Size and leg color

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

Yes. P. Wallace. Slides accompanying.

19. Previous experience with this species:

Seen several times on east coast and a few times in LA.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation: Grant, Gulls

b) after observation: NGS Field Guide, Harrison Seabirds

21. This description written from: ☒ notes made during observation; ☐ notes made after observation; ☐ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? Yes. If not, explain:

I'm surprised at eye color and small size of mirrors.
Size and mantle color seems to rule out anything else.
at leg color

23. Signature of reporter:

24. Date and time of writing this account: 12/30/94 11:30 am

Philip Wallace

12/30/84

Sedbrook Bunting

DATE

8:15

8:15

Great Black-backed Dill 8:15
Winter Adult

Head - All white; no molting;
Dark eye

Dill - Yellow with ^{red} yellow
gump spot; more orange than
Yellow Dill.

Dark Purple, Wing - very dark,
Black

Underparts - pure white

Legs - Grey to flesh

Wing - Long the wing; breast
Orange

Tail - Solid white

Dark legs - overcast

DATE

Dr. G. - Labeled Dill (cont.)

50-75 yds.

Red added wing
Dark eye reappeared
Very light (pink) brown streaking
on head.

Dark eye crescent (front eye)

Dill not as precise as some
Dr. M. birds.

Dark flight - Conspicuous
white leading edge to wing.
Strong white about the shoulder
(exterior)

Small rump.

Bulky chest

Still present at
9:50