

## LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

95-74

## BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

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, photographs, 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 - 3rd winter/3rd summer
3. Locality: Louisiana: Seabrook Bridge Parish: Orleans
4. Date(s) when seen: March 26, 1995
5. Times of day when seen: 9:00 - 9:40
6. Reporting observer and address: Phillip Wallace, 4515 S. Priour St. N.O., LA 70125
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: None
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: ?
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Excellent
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10X Zeiss binoculars
11. Distance to bird: 30 - 100 yards
12. Duration of observation: 40 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific): On sand at edge of lake; in lake, on seawall.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Resting, flying
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 - white with a hint of duskiness behind eye; less duskiness in front of eye.

Eye - dark

Bill - straw colored with black subterminal band and a red spot at the gonys; more massive bill than adjacent Herring

Mantle and Scapulars - Black

Wings - At rest: ① wing coverts dark brown with black undertones; molting ② Primaries - dark brown to black; much darker than coverts; not as dark as back.

Tail - White; hint of black while at rest.

In flight, tail and rump are white with minor black flecks terminally.

Size - Significantly larger than adjacent Herring

Legs - light; flesh to pink

16. Voice:

None

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

Lesser Bl-backed Gull - smaller; *gracilis* significantly lighter on mantle

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?): Slides will be sent later.

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen it several times in Louisiana and elsewhere in the U.S.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification  
a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: NGS and Grant

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:

23. Signature of reporter:

Philly Wallace

24. Date and time of writing this account:

June 9, 1985

4:20 p.m.

9:00 - 9:40

Seabrook

Still present

DATE

3/26/95

when I left.

Great Black-backed Gull

3rd Winter / 3rd Summer

Black Mantle and Scapulars.

~~White~~

Wing coverts dark brown w/  
Black undertones - Molting

Legs - lighter, flesh to pink

Head - White, hint of dark brown  
behind eye; less in front.

~~Upper~~

Underparts - entirely white

Bill - Short / w black subterminal  
band at 1st gauge spot.

Feathers - Darker brown to  
black; most darker than  
coverts; rest quite as dark as back