

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

97-04A

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 1st winter
3. Locality: Louisiana: St. Tammany Parish: Mandeville marina
small boat harbor at east end of town.
4. Date(s) when seen: 16 Feb. 1997
5. Times of day when seen: 12:35 - 12:55 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address:
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: B. Mac Myers III 105 McClung St. Pass Christian MS 39571-3329
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: Phillip Wallace
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): glary, looking about 45° to left of sun
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x40 Zeiss 22x80 Bushnell
11. Distance to bird: 150 yards and farther
12. Duration of observation: 20 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):
mud bar/sand bar just outside jetty of channel in shallow
brackish water (Lake Pontchartrain)
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
sitting, bathing, flying, preening
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):
Very large gull w/ massive black bill. Head white with
some dark streaking especially rear crown and nape - more
than on most 1st winter GBB. Wing coverts nicely checkered
blackish and white, back somewhat messier not as crisp
as some birds. Tail white with a broad rounded blackish
subterminal band and a very few scattered small dark marks
basally. Underparts whitish.
Direct comparison w/ Laughing + Ring-billed Gulls.

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1. Common and scientific name: Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. ad. in breeding plumage): 1 ad. male
3. Locality: Louisiana: St. Tammany Parish: Marshville
4. Date(s) when seen: 15 Feb. 1957
5. Time(s) of day when seen: 12:37 - 12:57 PM
6. Reporting observer and address: Dr. Mac Miller III, 107 W. Church St., New Orleans, La. 70112
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: Dr. Mac Miller III
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: Dr. Mac Miller III

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):
most similar to Lesser Black-backed, but much larger, especially head and bill

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):
not that I know of

19. Previous experience with this species:

Yes

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification
a) at time of observation;

b) after observation:

21. This description written from: X notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification? YES. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter: B. Mac Miller III

24. Date and time of writing this account:

1 April 1957

8 PM

16 Feb 97

w/ P. Wallace

Mandeville - Marina / Small port harbor entrance to L. Pontchartrain
150 yds - on out. Bathing, preening, flying. Low light

Great Black Backed Gull

Observed

1st winter



bill massive, black

Wing coverts
nicely checkered blackish
& white. Back a little messier
dark & with nr. Direct
comparison w/ R-b &
laughing but not with
Herring 1235 - 1255 P.m.

Somewhat more streaking
on crown - especially rear
crown and nape than
on some 1W GBB.
Sides of face & throat & sides
of neck white some coarse
dark streaking rear portions of
neck

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1. **Common and scientific name:** Great Black-backed Gull
(Larus marinus)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:**
1 - First-winter plumage
3. **Locality: State (Louisiana) Parish:** St. Tammany

Exact Location: Mandeville Lakefront - East end, over
seawall at marina channel
4. **Date(s) seen:** February 16, 1997
5. **Time(s) of day seen:** 12:30-12:53pm
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Phillip Wallace
4515 S. Prieur St.
New Orleans, LA 70125
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified
the bird:** Mac Myers
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** None
9. **Light conditions:** Fair to good. Sunny day. Sun was to
the right of the line of sight.
10. **Optical equipment:** Zeiss 10x40 bins and Bushnell 22x
scope
11. **Distance to bird:** 100 yards
12. **Duration of observation:** 23 minutes
13. **Habitat (general and specific):** On a sandbar by the
seawall and in the lake.
14. **Behavior:** Playing with some small object in the water.
Would pick up the object, fly up and drop it, and then drop
down to pick it up again. Flying to the other seawall south
of the lakefront. Preening on the sandbar. Flying south
toward New Orleans at 12:53.

15. Description:

Size Large gull; dwarfed the Ring-billed Gulls with which it associated. No Herrings around for comparison. Bulky; big-chested.

Head From a distance using binoculars, the head appeared whitish compared to the back and upper breast. Through the scope we could see streaking on the nape and side-neck. Some minor streaking on the crown. Throat, chin, and lower side of the face were pure white when seen through the scope.

Mantle and Back Seemed somewhat dark for a Great Black-backed. Not as checkered black-and-white as usual.

Wings

Folded Coverts were white-and-blackish checkered. Primaries were very dark; blackish. Tertials almost completely dark; some pale coloration on the fringes.

In Flight No pale windows at the base of the primaries. No double dark secondary bar, i.e., the greater coverts were the same color as the rest of the coverts rather than dark like the secondaries.

Tail Clearly delineated "terminal" tail band was dark brown.

The band covered the distal $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the tail. The proximal part of the tail and the uppertail coverts were speckled brownish and white.

Soft Parts Eye was dark. Bill was all dark (black) and large, though not as massive as some Great Black-backed Gulls. Leg color not noted.

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species and how they were eliminated:

Herring Gull eliminated by tail pattern, absence of windows and bill size and color. (This time of year Herring should have extensive horn color on bill.)

Lesser Black-backed Gull eliminated by size and absence of double dark secondary bar.

18. Photographs? None.

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen quite a few times in LA and on the East Coast.

20. Aids used in identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: Grant

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

22. Are you positive of your identification? yes

23. Signature of reporter: Philip Waller

24. Date and time of writing this account: February 21, 1997
5:00pm

P.W., m.m.

ways.

Great Black-backed Gull

12:30 - 12:53

2/16/87

Mandeville - Small Boat Harbor, E. end of town

on ^{beach} other side of seawall

east of channel (not seawall south of store)

Light - fair to good

Sunny; Sun to

Flew south over lake at

right of line of sight

12:53

Large gull

All dark bill (large, but not massive); Whitish head; streaking on nape and side neck; some minor streaking on crown

In flight - No windows at base of primaries. (No double secondary bar)

Tail - Clearly delineated "terminal" tail band (dark brown); terminal $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of tail; rest of tail and upper coverts speckled brownish and white.

Mantle and Back - somewhat dark for G.B.G.U. Coverts more white and blackish checkered.

Wings (folded) - Primaries very dark (blackish)

Tertials almost completely dark; some pale on the fringes.

Head from distance (w/bins) looks whitish compared to back and upper breast.

Eyes dark

Legs - Color not noted

Throat, chin, lower side of face - pure white

Bulky bird; big chested

With RBG; no HEG; draws RBG.



Tail
Pattern