

## Louisiana Ornithological Society's

## LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## Rare Bird Report Form

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to ensure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach fieldnotes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: Rissa tridactyla Black-legged Kittiwake
2. Number of individuals, age, sex, general plumage (e. g., "2 adult males in alternate <breeding> plumage"): 1 First Winter (1st basic)
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: 80 miles south of Patterson in St. Mary  
(parish)  
Parish in the Gulf of Mexico long. 91° 56' 15" W, lat. 28° 38' 48" N  
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: 16 March 1998
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 0740
6. Reporting observer and address: Daniel Christian 5720 One Perkins Place  
Apt. B, Baton Rouge, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s): None
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): None
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): The sun was in back of me. I was looking at the bird to the west
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Leica 10x42 BA in excellent condition +  
Bushnell Scope w/15-45X zoom in fair condition
11. Distance to bird(s): 25 meters when first viewed with binocular
12. Duration of observation: 2 or 3 minutes  
2 3



13. Habitat: Ocean (Gulf of Mexico)
14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding the observation):  
Flying with wingbeats fairly fast closer than a large tern. Really stood out from the surrounding sea of Herring Gulls.
15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; if possible, give details on total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species. Attach additional pages as necessary):  
Slender body and wings. Bill black, small, thin. The bird tiny compared to nearby Herring Gulls. Eye black and ear patch black stood out on white head. Head smallish. Not so noticeable was a wide smudgy grey partial collar on neck. All black outer primaries + outer prim coverts up until bend in wing where they join with black carpal bar, the rest of the primaries + secondaries are white (with white tips) Mantle (back) and adjoining leading edge of wing in front of black carpal bar gray. Body white. Underwing white. Tail white except for the tip (last 1/8 of rectrices) black. Tail mildly forked, looks flat when folded. legs not seen.  
Making a clean M shape.
16. Voice: Did not call.
17. Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?): Bonaparte's gull has dark tips to secondaries + doesn't have collar on neck. Little gull is black capped no collar on neck bill very small short.
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): None.
19. Previous experience with this species: Thousands seen off the east + west coasts of NA.
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):  
a. at time of observation: Took notes, sketches  
b. after observation: "Seabirds" by Peter Harrison  
Nat Geo. Soc. Birds of North America
21. This description is written from: ✓ notes made during the observation;        notes made after the observation (date:       );        memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification (if not, then explain)? Yes
23. Signature of reporter: Daniel Christen 17 March 1998  
(date)