

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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 assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one adult male (possibly same male paired to a F1 hybrid present at this site in 1999).

3. Parish: St. Bernard

Specific Locality: Delta-Breton NWR, Chandeleur Islands, southern Curlew Island fragment

4. Date(s) when observed: 2 August 2000

5. Time(s) of day when observed: during Curlew Island survey 11:30 AM-2:30 PM

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff
City: 435 Pecan Drive
State: Louisiana

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Jim Graham, Refuge Biologist.

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): partly cloudy with thunderstorms in the area, seas glassy, fairly calm.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 X 40 Leica binoculars

11. Distance to bird(s): Close – we were banding the chick.

12. Duration of observation: Several minutes while we banded single chick.

13. Habitat: barrier islands

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Male Kelp paired to a first generation (LBBG-colored mantle) hybrid with one small chick. Male based on size = larger than mate. There was a broken egg nearby but not certain it belonged to this pair.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: 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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): Paired to a F1 hybrid (apparently missed this bird on 27 June 2000 survey – off feeding?) – and likely same individual (and pair) present at this location the previous year. Herring Gull-sized gull; this was the obviously larger member of the pair so judged to be a male. Mantle blackish-gray, notably darker than nearby Laughing Gulls. The mantle had an almost black. The head, underparts, and tail were immaculate white. In flight the primaries from above contrasted little with the dark gray wing. There was one small mirror on primary #10 and a broad white trailing edge to the secondaries. The undersurface of the wings in flight were reminiscent of a Laughing Gull with black primaries that graded into dark gray on the inner primaries and continued down the secondaries, forming a distinct dark secondary bar. The head looked fairly large in relationship to the rest of the body in flight, as did the legs and feet. The bill was on the hefty side with a pronounced gonydeal angle, deep yellow with a large red gonydeal patch. Iris was white or pale yellow and the orbital ring was red. The legs and feet were greenish-yellow.

16. Voice: Long calls and distraction calls.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): No other large black-backed gull has the combination of greenish-yellow legs, a red orbital ring, and a single mirror on primary #10. No hybrid combination shows these characters.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): apparently none of adult

19. Previous experience with this species: Visited the Chandeluers in 1994 and saw the original pair of Kelps first discovered in 1989 by Dan Purrington and Larry O'Mealie. DLD saw Kelps on Chandeleurs during surveys with USFWS during 1997, and both saw Kelps in 1998, and 1999.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): None.

a. at time of observation: None.

b. after observation: None

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 21 February 2020 <compilation of Kelp records for LBRC>

Time:

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report? yes

Donna L. Dittmann and **Steven W. Cardiff**