

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>](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net).

1. English and Scientific names: Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one immature in first winter plumage.
3. Parish: Jefferson/Lafourche
Specific Locality: various sites from Elmer's Island WMA, beach area just west of where WMA entrance road intercepts beach to .
4. Date(s) when observed: 13, 22, 25 January and 24 February 2016
5. Time(s) of day when observed: first observed at about 9:06 AM as it flew past us going E; DLD snapped a couple of photos; then found later on the beach around 10:30 and DLD got a better series of number of photos; same bird observed again and photographed during plover surveys on 22, 25 January and 24 February 2016
6. Reporting observer and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Dan O'Malley independently saw/photographed the bird a few minutes before he flushed the bird in our direction and we detected it. Dan and/or Tori O'Malley also had (presumably) the same bird on a couple of other occasions as far west as Bay Champagne.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): lighting was adequate; varied from good to glarey, and included during a howling gale/sand storm on 24 February 2016.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 X 40 & 10 x 50 Leica binoculars in good condition, 20-60 zoom Kowa telescope in good condition.

11. Distance to bird(s): varied but close enough for adequate photos (see below).

12. Duration of observation: 1-2 minutes initial sighting; then 5-10 min. as DLD approached it farther west during survey and obtained photos; then a couple minutes max each additional observation as a fly-by or resting briefly on the beach or back bay.

13. Habitat: surf zone of gulf/gulf beach.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): We were doing a beach survey and the bird went flying past – DLD yelled to SWC and both got brief views. Dan O'Malley came up in ATV had initially flushed the bird farther east and had obtained better photos (then DLD's initial distant shots). Relocated farther west later same day guarding dead fish on beach. Seen in flight, and also resting on the water during observations on different days. Do not suspect more than one individual involved in these sightings.

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*): First year, large, nearly all-white gull. Some light brown mottling on lower belly and undertail coverts; smudgy brown cast on head; primaries and secondaries all white; tail mostly white with pale internal barely perceptible banding; large bill bicolored with black tip and pink base, eye dark; legs dull pink.



16. Voice: Not heard, but was calling (long call posture – see below) at other gulls when DLD saw and photographed it a ways up the beach when guarding a dead fish on 13 Jan.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): No other species with this combo of size, shape, proportions, plumage pattern, soft part colors. Size, structure, and plumage characters did not suggest a hybrid. Did not believe more than one individual GLGU was involved in the different sightings.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): yes, on multiple dates.

19. Previous experience with this species: We have now seen/collected several in Louisiana.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: none.

b. after observation: none

21. This description is written from:

	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
X	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	Ebird list comments
X	Memory and photos		

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

23. Date: 6 March 2016

Time: 5:00 PM

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? _____YES_____

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

Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff

Photos below on 13 January 2016.



