

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more 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: **Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One immature, possibly a first year based on tan vanes of primaries, and some brown feathers in plumage (despite lighter, not brown eye).
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: *Jefferson and Lafourche*
Specific Locality: **along beach from western Elmer's Island WMA west into the Wisner property.**
4. Date(s) when observed: **20 April and 4 May 2016; same bird observed on both days with conspicuous blotches of brown on plumage (difficult to determine whether this was staining versus actually brownish feathers or a mix. Zoom-in on upperparts more suggestive of scattered brownish feathers. Based on comparison of photos and slight differences in the bill and plumage, we believe this bird should be considered a different individual from one present in the same area January-March 2016 (previously accepted LBRC 2016-008).**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **A) 12:40-12:50 PM and B) 10:35-10:45 AM**
6. Reporting observer and address:

**Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
435 Pecan Drive, St. Gabriel**
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): **Good.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Leica 10X binoculars; Kowa 20-60X**

scope

11. Distance to bird(s): **as close as 50 ft. during first observation**

12. Duration of observation: **varied during both observations: A) about 10 minutes, we spotted bird while on ATV and made a U-turn to return to obtain photos; and B) 10 minutes by DLD as she approached up beach.**

13. Habitat: **Gulf beach shoreline and in active beach restoration area**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **A) resting in gull flock on beach then flew off out over Gulf and down beach; and B) first seen roosting on sand furrows on upper beach; flew offshore when approached.**

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): **Large immature gull nearly all white in appearance, with heavy pink bill with black tip and pink legs. Plumage very worn with skeletal primaries and tail feathers. Some of odd blotches of dark on plumage made this individual easy to recognize on two different dates. See photos.**

16. Voice: **Not heard.**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Leucistic individual of other gull species or hybrids?; we eliminated those by size and overall structure: this was a big gull (see photos to compare to Herring) with a stout bill and legs and was "classic" for Glaucous Gull.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Photos obtained by DLD; see below.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Both observers very familiar with this species and various hybrids and strange plumages.**

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 (_____notes attached?);_____notes made after the observation (date:_____);
 X memory and photograph XIF data.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: **Yes.**

23. Signature of reporter: **Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff** Date: **5 February 2017** Time: **10:30 AM**

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**

Photo of bird next to Herring Gulls on 20 April 2016 (bottom); top image shows bird in flight on 5 May and middle on 20 April; note conspicuous patch of dark on right coverts confirms second sighting is same individual.







