

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: Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

One, sex unknown, Juvenile in clean, neat plumage

3. Parish: Plaquemines Parish

Specific Locality: Buras Boat Harbor/Joshua's Marina Hwy 23, Buras, LA The bird was near the fish cleaning station, eating fish scraps thrown by fishermen.

4. Date(s) when observed: March 16, 2018

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 2:55 through 3:10 p.m. The bird was still present when we left.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Malise Prieto

City: 424 Chase Court West, Mandeville

State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

Janine Robin

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):

We were the first to see and identify the Kittiwake. The next day it was seen by Joan Garvey, Cathy DiSalvo, Mike Munier and Philip DiSalvo.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast afternoon with some breaks in clouds to show blue sky. The bird was very cooperative and we photographed it at close range.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Vortex 12x50 binoculars and Nikon CoolPix P900 Camera with 83x Optical zoom/24-2000 mm High Speed Autofocus

11. Distance to bird(s): 15 - 35 feet. Closest when bird was perched on nearby pilings but also observed it flying around the fish cleaning station

12. Duration of observation: Approximately 15 minutes.

13. Habitat: Boat launch with partially covered deck for fishermen to clean their catch which overlooked the marsh as well as open water

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird (and other Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls) were not afraid and apparently used to being present when the boats came in and catch was cleaned and packed up for the charter clients. The fishermen were vocal and carrying on their conversations and the gulls and BLKI were moving in and around them waiting for some scraps to be thrown into the water or on the deck. They would perch for a bit, then fly out over the water around the dock and back to a perch again.

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*): I first saw that it was oddly marked and it reminded me of a winter-plumage or Juvenile Bonaparte's Gull, but it was larger and bulkier. We observed it flying, perching and feeding and took numerous photos, some with it perched next to a Laughing Gull, which was slightly smaller and definitely less bulky. Because of our close proximity, and the raised cleaning station deck, we were able to see the Kittiwake from all angles - flying above and below us, and stationary - front, back and sides. There was a distinctive smudge spot on each side of the head and a black bill. It had a thick, black nape collar and a white tail with black edges. When it flew, we could see a bold "M" pattern on the upper part of its wings and back.

16. Voice: Silent

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): My first impression was of a Juvenile or first winter Bonaparte's Gull, but this bird was bulkier and had more black coloration. I used iBird Ultimate to confirm that it wasn't a Bonaparte's and then pulled out my field guides and started looking for gull types that were not the usual. This bird was a perfect match for the Juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake in my Stokes field guide.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Yes, both Janine Robin and I took photographs. The photos attached hereto are mine.

19. Previous experience with this species:

Seen in Alaska last summer and in the northern Atlantic (Canadian coast) about 5 years ago. Mostly saw adults with very different plumage than this Juvenile

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

a. at time of observation:

iBird Ultimate, Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America and National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Birds of North America

b. after observation: same

21. This description is written from:

- X notes made during the observation. Are notes attached? eBird checklist
- notes made after the observation. At what date?
- X memory
- X study of images

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

23. Date: 4/5/2018
Time: 10:49 pm

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 _____











