

# 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: **California Gull (*Larus californicus*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
**One adult or third-cycle.**
3. Parish: **East Baton Rouge**  
Specific Locality: **BR Landfill, West Irene Rd.**
4. Date(s) when observed: **23 January 2018**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **12:00pm**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Daniel Lane**  
**LSU Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **J. V. Remsen, Jr.**
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Excellent light, nearly behind us, bird was swimming broadside to us among a group of approx.. 1500 gulls.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Swarovski 80mm angled eyepiece telescope with 25-60x lens.**
11. Distance to bird(s): **approx. 150 meters.**
12. Duration of observation: **about 5 min.**

13. Habitat: shallow settling pond with rusty red mud in impoundment adjacent to landfill.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird was observed as it swam just off the mud edge of the settling pond. At one point, it was immediately beside an adult Herring and several adult Ring-billeds for direct size comparison, and it was intermediate in size between these.

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*): An adult-type gull intermediate in size between Ring-billed and Herring. Iris dark, bill yellow with black subterminal band and small red gonydal mark. Dark markings on head, particularly around eye. Back was slightly darker than Herring and Ring-billeds adjacent to it. Not seen in flight, but on closed wing, the large white subterminal "mirror" on the outermost primary was large, noticeable in the images we captured. Legs not seen (swimming).

16. Voice: None noted.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Bill pattern, iris color, size, and wingtip details rule out Herring and Ring-billed, and back appeared slightly darker than both. No other normally-occurring North American gull fits these characters, and the wing tip pattern didn't match any vagrant Eurasian species.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, one poor photo by me and a video (with still frames screen-grabbed) by Van. Still images available on eBird list:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S42184987>

Video here:

<https://flic.kr/p/JMDr7H>

19. Previous experience with this species: Fairly extensive, primarily in western US and Canada, but also on one previous experience at this locality.

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:

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

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

23. Date: 23 Jan 2018

Time: 7:50pm

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 \_\_\_\_\_