

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: **California Gull (*Larus californicus*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One first winter bird
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) East Baton Rouge Parish
Specific Locality: BR Dump, W Irene Rd.
4. Date(s) when observed: **4 January 2018**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **1:45-2:05pm**
6. Reporting observer and address: **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):
Clear sky, good sunlight.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Zeiss 10X40 binoculars, Swarovski 85mm angled scope with 25-60x eyepiece.**
11. Distance to bird(s): **At closest, at least 200 meters.**
12. Duration of observation: **Total time of actual observation perhaps about 10 min.**
13. Habitat: **at settling pond near solid waste dump.**
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **Bird first noticed when it**

dropped in to the pond amid large group of mixed gull species. It basically sat alone, and not near other gulls, for about 20 min, appearing to be resting, with no preening or bathing behavior noticed. It then flew off when a large exodus of gulls occurred, but I was unable to see much plumage pattern on the bird and was unsuccessful in getting photos of it in flight.

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): A medium-sized gull, we could confirm it was larger than nearby Ring-bills, but never had a Herring near enough by to compare sizes comfortably. It was clearly a first winter bird, had a starkly bicolored bill (base pink, distal 1/3 black). The body plumage was mottled brown overall with some more defined markings on the mantle. The wings seemed attenuated and long, but we were unable to confirm the spread-wing pattern, rump pattern, or tail pattern when it flew—I was too busy trying to get photos and failing to do so.

16. Voice: none heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Larger and browner than Ring-billed Gull, and appeared a bit smaller, smaller-billed (with strong bicolored pattern), and longer-winged than typical first winter Herring Gulls. The latter, of course, are highly variable, and it's possible that this was simply a very California-like Herring, but the shape of the wings and bill shape and pattern certainly convinced us we had a California on our hands as we watched it.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos by both DFL and JVR. DFL photos available:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/8013969@N03/albums/72157664674711138/with/38798643274/>
<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S41629546>

19. Previous experience with this species: Many seen in western US, but this is a tricky age, and one I probably haven't got much experience with compared to adults.

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

a. at time of observation: None.

b. after observation: Sibley's, Nat Geo, Howell and Dunn (Gulls book), Grant (Gulls book).

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (_____ notes attached?); _____ notes made after the observation (date: _____); memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Not 100%, but fairly confident.

23. Signature of reporter: ___Daniel Lane_____ Date: ___14 Jan 2018___ Time: ___4:22pm___

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 _____

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