

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: California Gull, *Larus californicus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 near-adult

3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Broussard and Rutherford beaches

4. Date(s) when observed: 19 and 20 October, 2019

5. Time(s) of day when observed: various morning hours

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Conover
City: Lafayette
State: Louisiana

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Phillip Wallace, Dave Patton

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): Good lighting from behind, autumn sun

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon Fieldscope II 20-60x (including filming through with Samsung S8 cellphone camera), Nikon D3300 with 200 mm lens

11. Distance to bird(s): Probably down to about 40 yards

12. Duration of observation: Over an hour altogether, I'd say.

13. Habitat: Beach

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Resting in flocks of several hundred birds including Herring, Ring-billed, Lesser Black-backed, Laughing, and Franklin's gulls, and several tern species. Flew a few times at approach of vehicle.

15. Description: Adult or near-adult "White-headed" gull with slightly darker mantle than Herring Gull (perhaps with more of a blue-gray tone), yellowish legs, dark eye, and "red" and black markings on bill.

Upperparts: Color slightly darker than 100s of Herrings with it, but only noticeable in certain angles or when consciously comparing. Mantle may have had a different, bluer-gray rather than silvery-gray tone.

Folded primaries blackish with white tips visible on exposed tips. Tertiary crescent white; not notably extensive-seemed smaller than on Herrings.

Head: White ground color, hood of fine, grayish or brownish streaks from about eye level back, continuing onto neck where densest in rear as hind collar, sparser on neck sides onto throat. Fore part of face white, encircling bill broadly and onto chin. Eye dark, seemed small. Bill clear pale straw color for basal 2/3, with irregular partial blackish ring just past gonys, boarder on lower mandible, narrowing on upper mandible by encroachment of yellow cutting edge. Orange smudge proximal and adjacent to black bill markings on lower mandible. Tip of bill seemed paler, but whether that was real or perception relative to dark area uncertain.

Underparts white except for gray barring on breast marking end of hood.

Legs and feet including webs pale yellow, with grayish or greenish cast n some light angles.

Open wings typical overall to other white headed gulls: gray overall with white trailing edge to secondaries and inner primaries. Black on outer 6 primaries: small chevron of black on p5 between white tongue and tip, broader black band separating white tip and tongues on p6 and p7, extensive black running along about half of p8 from gray base to white tip, p9 mostly black with white tip and small white subapical spot, p10 mostly black with long clean white tip.

Tail white with small subterminal spots composed of tiny speckles or vermiculation on outer rectrices. One central rectrix with broad black smudge streak running down its center.

16. Voice: not noted

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Herring by leg color. LBBG by lighter mantle color, Ring-billed by dark eye, bill color and pattern, and wingtip pattern among others.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Pretty extensive in Louisiana and in the west

21. This description is written from:

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

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes. The only question I had was if the same bird was the object of all sightings, which I believe is the case.

23. Date: 10/21/2019

Time: 6:23 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























