

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, presumed 1st cycle.**
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) **East Baton Rouge**
Specific Locality: **West Irene Impoundments of EBR landfill**
4. Date(s) when observed: **1 December 2020**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **9:30-10 am**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Dan Lane, 119 Foster Hall, Baton Rouge**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Oscar Johnson (finder), Robb Brumfield, Van Remsen, Cameron Rutt.**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **Same as above.**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Excellent, clear sky, sun from behind observers.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Swarovski 20-60x scope, Zeiss 10x40 binocular**
11. Distance to bird(s): **20-100 m**
12. Duration of observation: **about 30 min**
13. Habitat: **disused oxidation pond on raised impoundment by landfill**
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and

stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

mostly loafing with large group of Ring-billed Gulls, allowing direct comparison. Flushed into flight on a couple of occasions, mostly by marauding Bald Eagles. Eventually flew to active landfill with group of Ring-bills and Herring.

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): Medium-sized *Larus*, noticeably larger than surrounding Ring-billed, but not as large or bulky as Herring also nearby. Overall, a dark muddy brown with little patterning on underparts, back had some dark gray feathers already molting in (considerably darker than gray on mantles of Ring-billed). Open wing showed dark bar along greater coverts, inner primaries not much paler than outer. Rump was whitish with black tail band contrasting. Bill like 1st cycle Glaucous: pink base with well-defined black tip.

16. Voice: None heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Ring-billed smaller, not as dark or muddy brown in any plumage. Herring larger, bill typically not patterned as in this bird, shows more obvious pale inner primaries. Black-tailed Gull in 1st cycle would show snow-white undertail coverts. Heermann's in 1st cycle would be more uniform chocolate overall.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, photos and video obtained. See below, and also <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76963094>

19. Previous experience with this species: Fairly extensive, in Rockies, Pacific Coast, and a smattering of previous Louisiana records from this same 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: _____ notes made during the observation (____ notes attached?); _____ notes made after the observation (date: _____);
x memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: Daniel Lane _____

Date: 2 Dec 2020 Time: 8:45am

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



















