

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: California Gull (*Larus californicus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 individual in 1st spring plumage

3. Parish: Calcasieu Parish

Specific Locality: Lake Charles, LA, I-10 swimming beach

4. Date(s) when observed: April 18, 2023

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 7:17PM

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

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|------------------------------------|
| Reporting observer: James Smithers |
| City: Lake Charles |
| State: Louisiana |

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): None

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): None

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Great lighting conditions initially, but sun started to set towards end of observation

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Leica Trinovid 8 x 42 Binoculars and Kowa 30 x 66 spotting scope

11. Distance to bird(s): 100 ft

12. Duration of observation: 13 minutes

13. Habitat: man made beach on lakefront

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Bird was loafing on the beach with large group of RBGU, occasionally tucking its head and preening, stretched wings out on 2 occasions

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*):

Slightly larger than RBGU with direct comparison; darker mantled than RBGU; pale bill with "ink dipped" tip; pale legs; dark iris with dark line behind the eye; scapulars all gray and slightly darker than nearby RBGU; brown and white on coverts; pale legs; stretched wings to reveal reduced primary panel with pale edging

16. Voice: no vocalization noted

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Ring-billed Gull: overall size of bird and color of mantle eliminate RBGU

Herring Gull: Did not seem large enough to be HERG, somewhat similar in plumage to third cycle HERG, but darker mantle and dark iris separate from this species; primaries also seemed to extend further than what I've observed with HERG

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

Photo and video obtained by myself

19. Previous experience with this species:

I've observed CAGU regularly over the last 2 years on the Oregon Coast

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

a. at time of observation: Sibley app

b. after observation: Consulted with others birders: John Garrett, Oscar Johnson, and Nick Ramsey

21. This description is written from:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | notes made during the observation. | Are notes attached? | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | notes made after the observation. | At what date? | 4/18/2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | memory | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | study of images | | |

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

23. Date: 4/21/2023

Time: 10:00PM

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 _____



