

DETAIL SHEET

SPECIES: California Gull, 2nd winter male

DATE: 28 March 1999

LOCATION: Louisiana 82 just west of Holly Beach,

Submitted by John Whittle, 3015 Nashville Ave, Nederland, TX 77627-6749.

Tel: (409) 722-4193.

Time of day: 1:30 p.m.

Length of sighting: 5 mins

Habitat: Narrow beach of Gulf of Mexico.

Weather: Raining, strong east wind, low cloud.

Light Conditions: Dark because of rain, but not a problem,

Distance: 100 feet

Optical equipment: 7x35 mm binoculars, 15-60x zoom telescope.

Voice/call notes: None heard

Behavior: Bird was standing on the beach, resting.

DESCRIPTION:

Shape/Size: Gull, larger than Ring-billed nearby, but smaller than Herring
Gull nearby. Longer bodied and slimmer in appearance.

Color/markings: Mantle and scapulars gray, perhaps a little darker than the

Herring Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls. Wing coverts brown, somewhat barred. Head white with extensive brown streaking.

Tail: Brief glimpse as wings partially raised suggested the upper tail was gray.

Bill: Long and relatively narrow; dark tip, sharply demarcates from the base of the bill which was a dull grayish color.

Legs: Pale grayish, perhaps a hint of pink.

Eye: Dark.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Observer had seen many California Gulls in Orange County, California five days prior to this, and the overall shape was characteristic.