

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: [Great Black-backed Gull \(*Larus marinus*\)](#)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): [1 imm.](#)
3. Parish: [Cameron](#)
Specific Locality: [beach opposite Willow Island area](#)
4. Date(s) when observed: [1 Oct. 16](#)
5. Time(s) of day when observed: [sunset](#)
6. Reporting observer and address: [Van Remsen, LSUMNS](#)
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [Cameron Rutt](#)
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): [Not good – backlit by setting sun](#)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [Kowa scope](#)
11. Distance to bird(s): [not closer than 100 yards](#)
12. Duration of observation: [ca. 10 minutes](#)
13. Habitat: [on open beach at mouth of tiny cut from adjacent marsh](#)

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Usual gull stuff – bathing, preening, grabbing fish, sitting around.

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*): When we first saw this bird, we identified it as ho-hum Lesser Black-backed, but as we studied it, we realized that it dwarfed a nearby Herring Gull (which can be seen in one of Rutt's photos in the linked eBird list) and had a very robust bill, thick and long. The rump and most of the tail were white with some flecking (see Rutt photos in eBird list), and tail had a blackish band at the tip, seen best in Rutt's in-flight photo. See photos for plumage details.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): The only species seriously considered was LBBG, which is exactly what we thought it was when first seen at a distance. I based my ID largely on size – the closer we got, the more obvious it was how much bigger this bird was than nearby HEGU.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes – see Rutt's photos in linked eBird list. My camera battery died before we got close enough to get better photos, but I am attaching some video frames and a link to composite video:

<https://youtu.be/tbLImkJqIGA>

19. Previous experience with this species: Not much --- ca. 3 other LA sightings plus some recent experience in Newfoundland.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: I briefly looked at field guide illustrations when reviewing the video

21. This description is written from:

X	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31857624
	notes made after the	At what date?	

<input type="checkbox"/>	observation.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images	

22. Are you positive of your identification? **No**. If not, explain: **I am not confident (or competent) in identification of almost any large gulls (partly because I suspect much of current information on ID of large gulls is based on circular reasoning). In last-minute cruising of field guides, I could not tell you, for example, why this isn't a juv. Yellow-footed Gull. I am basing my identification largely on comparative size, which was dramatic when bird was next to a couple of HEGU – it stood several inches above the birds. Unfortunately my camera battery died before the bird walked in among the puny HEGU. We were joking that the nearby Snowy Egrest might be in danger.**

23. Date: **4 Dec. 2016**

Time:

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** _____



