

# 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](mailto: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 first-yr**
3. Parish: **East Baton Rouge**  
Specific Locality: **Zachary, W. Irene Rd.**
4. Date(s) when observed: **29 Jan. 2016**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **09:30**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Van Remsen, LSUMNS**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
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): **Excellent**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **10x40 binos, then Kowa scope**
11. Distance to bird(s): **100 yds?**
12. Duration of observation: **30 mins**
13. Habitat: **Parking lot near dump**
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **Loafing with ca. 5000 gulls, mostly Ring-billed, after presumably feeding at dump. Of minor interest is that as it warmed up, this was the only gull that was panting.**
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*): Picked out by large size, towering over even nearby Herring Gulls. Then, the very large, all-black bill stood out from any of the other gulls' bills as well. Photos make a detailed description redundant. This was a fairly pale-headed, pale-chested, large gull with especially large bill and highly patterned back.

16. Voice: **Silent**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Lesser Black-backed** is only other immature gull with such a pale head and patterned back, but that species' bill would not appear so disproportionately large, and a LBBG would not have towered over adjacent HEGU.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Yes, attached**  
Video: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/126193733@N06/24400376880/in/datetaken-public/>

19. Previous experience with this species: **Bird in similar plumage studied at nearby dump last winter, and one also seen recently at Elmer's Island, but otherwise virtually none in last 40 years.**

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

a. at time of observation: **none**

b. after observation: **briefly looked at standard field guides**

21. This description is written from:

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

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

23. Date: **4 Feb. 2016**

Time: **22:10**





