

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

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):
One 1st winter (second calendar year)
3. Locality: Cameron Parish
Specific Locality: Broussard Beach
4. Date(s) when observed: 02/04/2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: between 8:00-10:00 a.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Dave Patton, Phillip Wallace
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): overcast, but good light; sunny on second sighting
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Fieldscope 20-60X, Zeiss 10s, Samsung S8 phone camera
11. Distance to bird(s): ca. 40 yards
12. Duration of observation: probably half an hour total, in 2 installments
13. Habitat: Gulf beach
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation: The bird was near a small group of gulls, up the beach perhaps 10 yards from them, defending a fish carcass which it was feeding from.
15. Description:

1st winter gull larger than any nearby Herrings with crisply marked dark-centered, pale-fringed upperparts, largely white head, and relatively huge black bill.

Largely white bodied. Head white with dusky patch around eyes contrastingly weakly with white eyelids. Underparts with white ground color. Neck with a collar of fine streaking. Narrow fine streaks along flanks with some darker spotting hidden under folded wings. White center of breast and belly. Rump white with sparse neatly arranged dark markings along outer uppertail coverts. White tail with irregular narrow black subterminal band widest in center and narrowing on outer rects. White undertail coverts with pattern of small dark marking echoing pattern of uppertail.

Upperparts “checkered” by dark centers and internal markings (“anchors,” etc.) with pale fringes to scapulars. I recall thinking that some scapulars were replaced, with buff ground color, but I can’t tell from photos. Tertiaries dark with pale fringes. Mantle paler, appeared mottled pale and dark. Upperwing coverts a continuation of scapular pattern, contrasting little with dark secondary bar (with pale trailing edge), and outerwing. Modest inner primary flash on inner 5-6 primaries (paler brown with darker tips, and with small paler spot just proximal to dark tips on inner webs), outer primaries appeared dark but perhaps pattern was covered up by adjacent primaries.

Underwings with dusky wing linings, slightly contrasting with flight feathers.

Bill relatively huge, thick, blunt-ended with strong gonydeal angle. Bill black, with slightly paler area at lower base.

Eyes dark. Legs pink.

16. Voice: Not noted

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

The size and physique relative to Herring Gulls, head and bill shape, and pattern all point to GBBG. No sign of hybridization (i.e. tail pattern, wings, size, and shape all consistent with GBBG).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Video and stills by me, better photos by Patton and Wallace.

19. Previous experience with this species: Fairly extensive elsewhere, some in LA.

20. This description is written from memory and photos.

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

22. Date: 02/05/2018











